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UNVEILED
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Prestige's latest park homes

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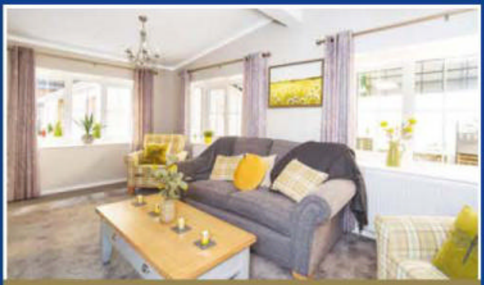

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An energetic market

The park and holiday home market continues to display energy – with new park and leisure homes being unveiled and new plots being created.

Prestige Homeseeker, for example, is shortly to add to its residential park home range. We have a sneak preview in this issue – a few details have been released, ahead of the unveiling of The Cottesbrooke, a home that Prestige describes as ‘captivating’, with ‘elegant, classic touches’ and ‘grandeur’.

Regal Leisure Homes has just unveiled the 2023 Hemsworth; a home that introduces a new concept in holiday home kitchens. Atlas Leisure Homes has new holiday homes in the pipeline. And there’s more to come. It’s a golden year for this company; 2023 is its fiftieth year in manufacture – very few manufacturers in this industry stretch back that far – and, among ways that the milestone is being marked, is by the creation of a new showground. So there’s a lot going on in the market this year, as ‘staycationing’ maintains its force on the holiday home market, and the concept of park home living is continuing to attract more people.

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HOMES

- Your new park home – whether it’s your home or your holiday retreat

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valcchapman@yahoo.co.uk

We’d love to publish them!

VAL CHAPMAN
EDITOR

In this issue...

Image:Regal

On the cover: *The Hemsworth, the latest from Regal Leisure homes*

Image: VisitBritain Andrew Pickett

Why Kent, Hampshire and Essex are great choices for living or leisure

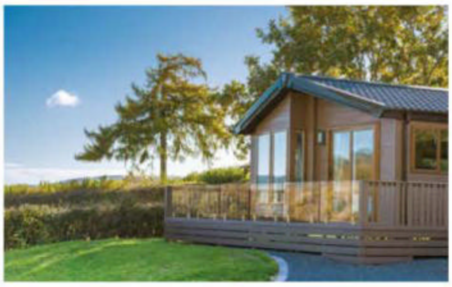

Image: Rob Scamp Discover Parks

Three parks in Herefordshire where fishing is a great attraction

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Image: Willerby

Image: Prestige

Image Tingdene Homes

Image: Warfield Park

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... on a prestigious park that has a thriving social scene centred around its own community centre – and no lower age limit for residence

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Image: Tingdene

Tingdene Overstone

Words **Val Chapman**

A ONE-STOP SHOP!

Park homes come fully furnished, completely ready to move into – that's not only convenient; it means that there is just one bill to pay, and nothing further to budget for

If there's one aspect of park homes that stands out as a main benefit, it's the fact that they come fully furnished and decorated. So, you can envisage what living in one would be like in an instant – no need to imagine colours and styles. It's all there, schemed by interior design experts, and ready to move into.

The one-stop-shop aspect of buying a park home has another – really big – benefit: there is nothing else to budget for. Your new home is complete. All you have to do, of course, is find the park home that is ideal for you in that it matches your aspirations in terms of looks, level of luxury, and equipment. And that's not difficult, with so many to choose from, made by top-class manufacturers all clamouring for your business with superb homes.

We've picked a few of the homes – in differing styles – that are sure to inspire you to consider the park home lifestyle.

From Prestige Homeseeker comes the new Residence Plus, a flagship home packed with top-luxury appliances including a Bosch oven and a Quooker boiling water tap. Prestige says, "This home is guaranteed to push the boundaries of residential park homes as we know them; everything just exudes extravagance." This home is available in sizes 40ft by 20ft, 42ft by 20ft, and 45ft by 20ft as standard; other sizes are available on request, up to a maximum of 65ft by 20ft.
Some layouts have a study, some have a utility room.

At the other end of Prestige's residential park homes line-up, with what Prestige describes as a modest price tag, is the Sonata. This is an elegant home with traditional, cosy appeal. Its kitchen is separate from the dining and lounge area – an important point for many buyers who don't favour complete open-plan living.

A good example of a compromise between a true open-plan layout and a separate kitchen comes from Willerby. In this company's Bespoke range, the Charnwood park home's galley-style kitchen is open to the dining area, yet feels quite separate. The result is that the dining area is secluded from the lounge, yet there are no doors to impede the open aspect. This is a delightful home with a stunning blue accent colour that creates a lively look.

Image: Omar

Omar Vision

Pemberton Leisure Homes has a range of four park homes. The newest is the Kingsdale, a 40ft by 20ft home with a similar kitchen-dining-lounge configuration – except that, at the end of the main galley shape of the kitchen is another section, of cabinets and work surface; call it a sort of utility room, if you like, for the washing machine is housed here. This area, which has a rear door, is open to the hallway, giving the Kingsdale an interesting through-corridor aspect. This home has two double bedrooms, one with a bath en suite, the other with a shower.

Exploring differing styles of park homes leads us to the Tingdene Overstone, a startlingly modern home with some very outstanding features. Among them is what Tingdene calls the 'reading' area of

Image: Prestige

Sonata

the lounge, with a porthole window. Another is the kitchen, finished in a stunning indigo colour, and with cleverly designed, black, cage-style pendant lights above a large breakfast bar that has four seats.

In the Omar range, the Vision has a layout like no other. It has, effectively, two lounging areas. One is contained within the spacious, central, dining/kitchen area; two facing sofas sit on the opposite side to the large dining area. The other is a separate lounge, closed off by double doors. The Omar Vision, thus, is an extraordinary home, and with super-modern styling. If there is one park home that epitomises the head-turning layouts and styling that can be found in park homes, it has to be the Vision.

Behind the stunning design appeal of park homes are other – hidden – plus-points. Among them is that the homes come with guarantees, usually a 10-year scheme covering the structure, and many have a 40-year roof tile weatherproof warranty. All park homes are built to the British Standard specification for park homes, BS 3632, that sets out standards for insulation as well as build. And, for added peace of mind, it’s good to know that park homes are built to last for 70-plus years – provided that they are maintained regularly, of course, just as you would expect to do for a bricks and mortar home.

Another plus-point of opting for park home living is that you can part exchange your house for a park home, enabling a swift move sequence that eliminates the uncertainties and frustrations of selling on the open market. Park home living, thus, has a lot going for it!

Pemberton Kingsdale

Image: Pemberton

Willerby Charnwood

Image: Willerby

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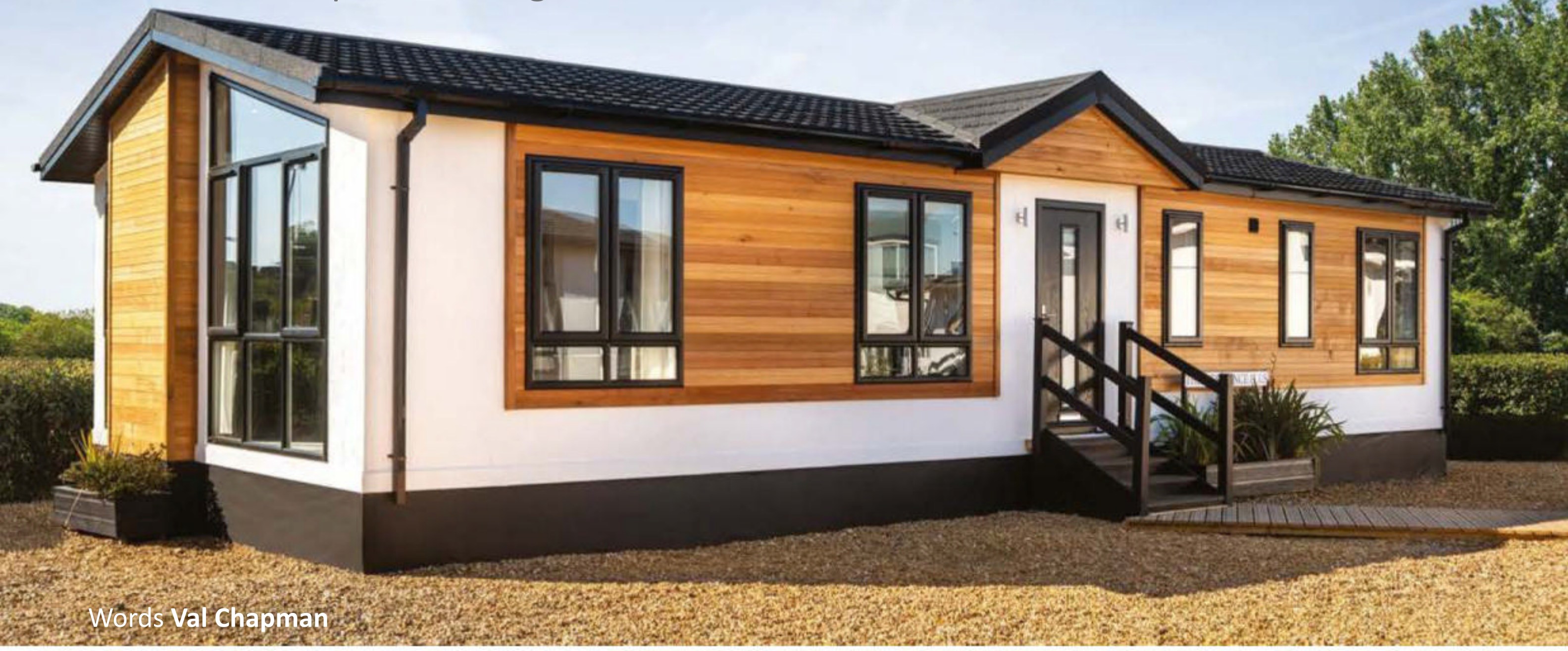
SLEEK AND SOPHISTICATED

Prestige has a range of six residential park homes. We review two of them, both with separate lounges. These are the Residence Plus and the Avanti



Words **Val Chapman**

RESIDENCE PLUS

Elegant, high in quality and sleek, ultra-modern in design, the Prestige Residence Plus showcases the epitome of park home excellence. If you wonder what the best of park homes offers, this will give you a very clear idea.

Prestige says the Residence Plus "exudes extravagance", and "pushes the boundaries of residential park homes" – and we have to agree.

This new model was created following the popularity of the Residence – it takes the Residence's chic modernity a step further.

It's an imposing home from the outside, mixing white stucco finish with natural wood. And the layout gives buyers something many seek: a lounge that is totally separate from the rest of the living space.

The Residence Plus is available in eight standard layout/size options, ranging from 42ft by 20ft to 50ft by 22ft. Six of them have studies; four have both studies and utility rooms. Our review Residence Plus is the 45ft by 20ft version.

The lounge spans the whole width of the home. Emphasising the lofty vaulted ceiling is a section of the end wall finished with horizontally aligned planking, with a large, circular mirror in the centre; lovely! A black venetian-style blind on the window beside it adds to the industrial styling, while curtains at the other two windows soften the look.

Two sumptuous sofas are laden with cushions to guarantee cosiness.

ANNOUNCING…THE PRESTIGE COTTESBROOKE

Prestige is shortly to unveil a new park home, called The Cottesbrooke. Brief details have been released. Prestige tells us, “With a nod to English country décor and a modern cottage vibe, this home has impressive quality with elegant, classic touches throughout.

“As you walk through the vaulted entrance, you’ll be greeted by a sense of grandeur and warmth, with muted colours and farmhouse-style furniture creating a traditional focus on natural themes. The living room offers a wonderful social space, perfect for entertaining and spending quality time with loved ones.

“The country-modern décor is a mix of elements from different styles that balance old and new.”

The Cottesbrooke will make its debut at The World of Park and Leisure Homes Show 2023 (9-11 June) at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire.

A coffee table, console table and lamp table inject a touch of chic industrial styling in the form of black ‘hairpin’ legs (each composed of two rods of metal that converge at floor level). The alcove, at one end the of the lounge, is a stunning feature of black vertical lines, three diamond-shaped mirrors, and spotlights focusing down from the top.

The wide kitchen/dining area is the focal point of the home.

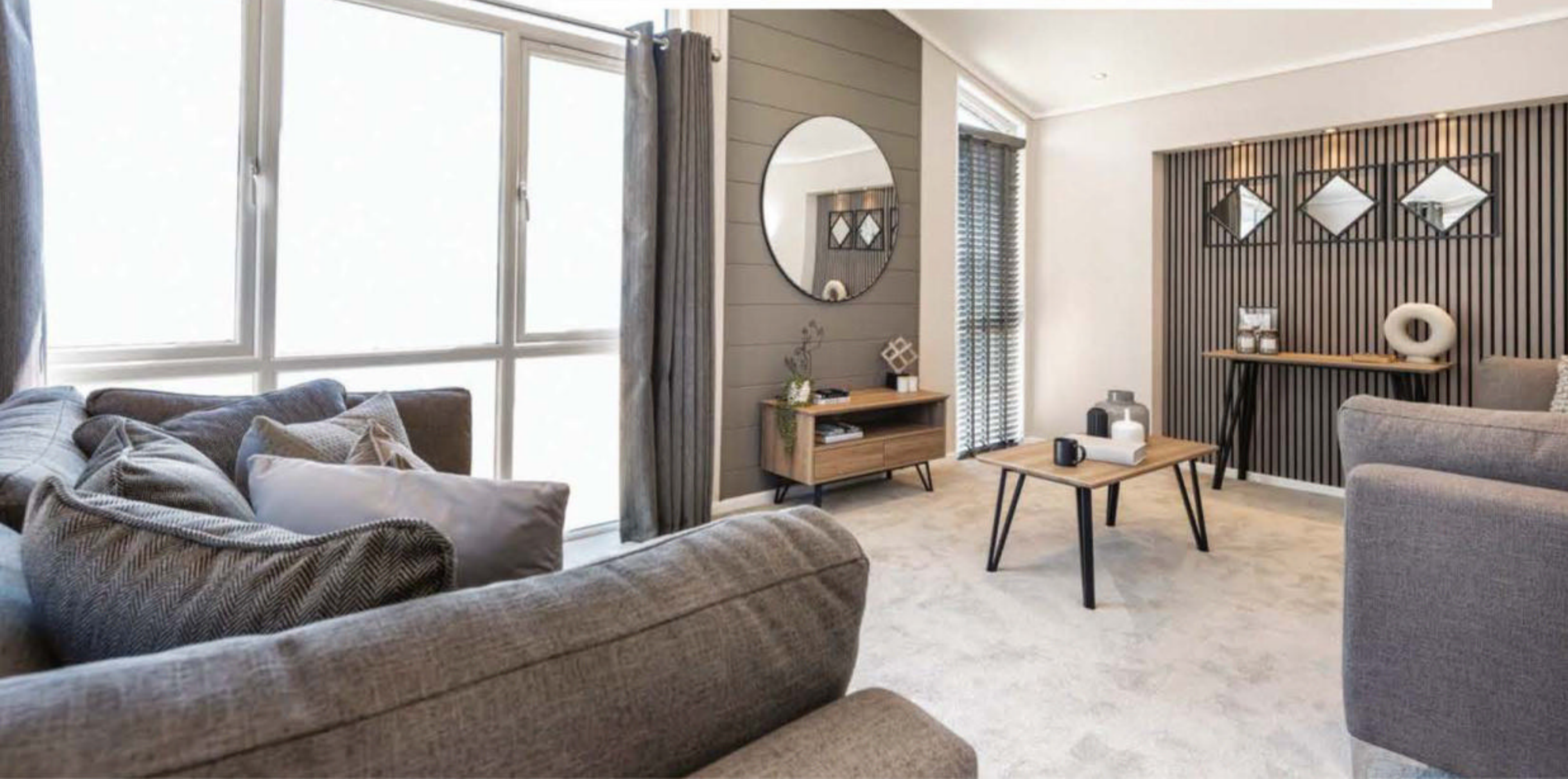
The dining suite sits in an alcove, separated from the vestibule by a part-wall that features a central section composed of horizontal wooden sections; you can see through it, but it forms a distinct barrier.

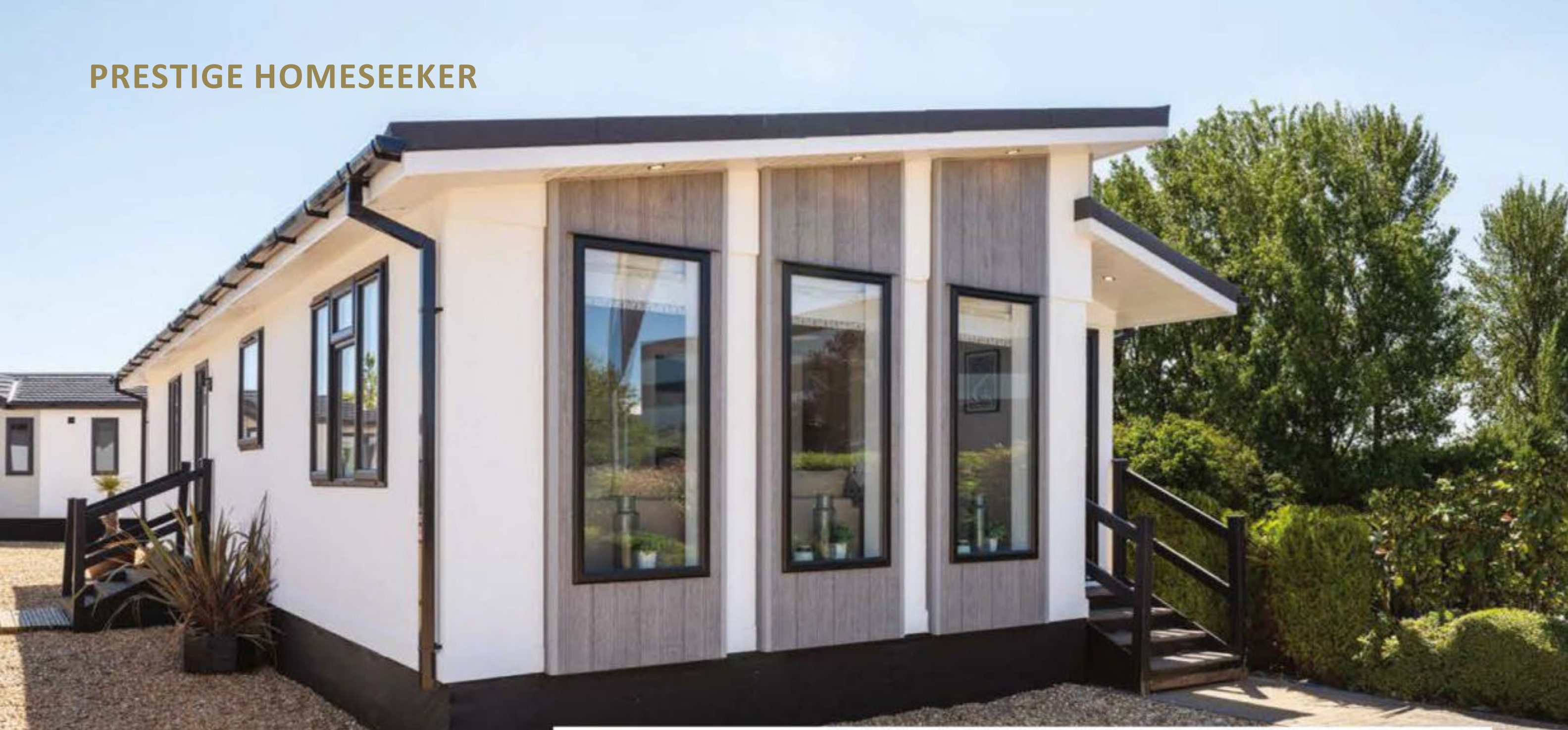
The kitchen is huge, with one section L-shaped and containing the sink and five-burner hob, and the other housing the Bosch oven/grill, microwave, a warming cabinet below the oven, and copious cabinets and shelves. Appliances include a washing machine and dishwasher.

The styling is super-modern, with a stone-effect surface that has coppery tones to inject a warm look, and matt grey units.

Two chairs are by the island unit that doubles as a breakfast bar and extra kitchen surface.

Images: Prestige





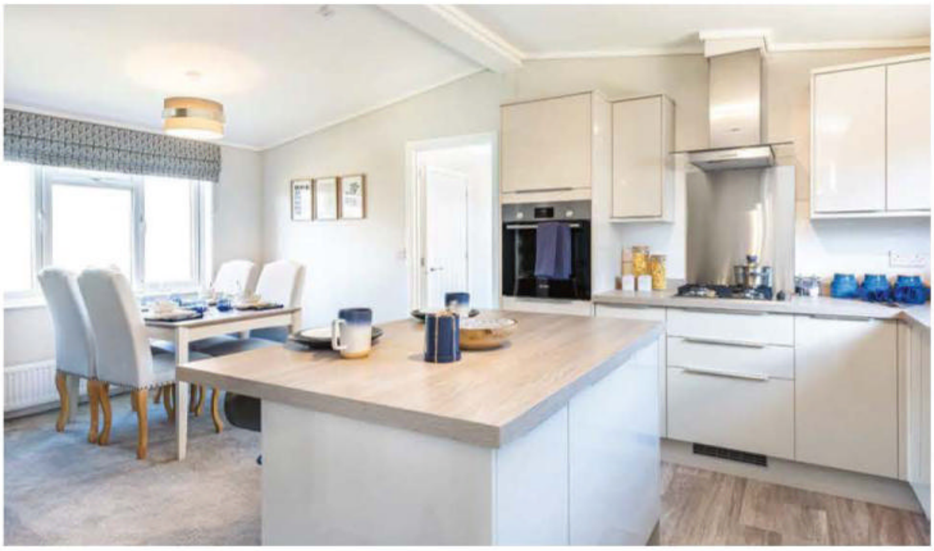
AVANTI

A model distinguished by its split-level roof line, the Avanti is, like the Residence Plus, superbly modern and sophisticated – and, also like the Residence Plus, has a separate lounge. But there the similarity stops, for the Avanti's styling is totally different. Cream gloss kitchen units, and a dark blue finish with a subtle texture pattern on two of the lounge walls, one wall in the dining area and one in the study, make the Avanti an outstanding home.

While the overarching style theme is modern, there's a touch of traditional styling in the dining area.

In the lounge, the huge, L-shaped sofa and armchair are simple and modern in style. Cushions – some matching the Roman-style blinds, others picking up the blue theme of the feature walls – ensure cosiness. The coffee table, and an occasional table incorporating shelving, bring together natural wood and plain cream. The whole effect is modern and yet also homely.

The Avanti is available in two standard sizes, 40ft by 20ft and 45ft by 20ft; this version has both a utility room and a study.



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Barnwell

Words **Val Chapman**

HOMES FOR LIVING AND FOR LEISURE

Tingdene Homes manufactures park homes and leisure lodges; we review two park homes, the Barnwell and the Cosgrove, and the Harrington leisure lodge

BARNWELL

The long-established and ever-popular Barnwell gains much of its following from its traditional, bungalow-style layout. While many park homes are open plan, the Barnwell is not. Its kitchen is totally separate from the lounge/dining area. So it's favoured by buyers who want to close the kitchen door to prevent cooking aromas from wafting into the rest of the home. And you can also close the door on the washing-up if you don't want to do it straight away after a meal!

The lounge and dining area are also separate rooms; double doors divide these rooms from one another, meaning that, when you want an open flow to the home, you can have it, by opening both of the doors. Versatility is, therefore, a keynote of the Barnwell's popularity.

It's not only the separate-room configuration that engenders a traditional feel. Box-bay windows and peaked rooflines create a classic bungalow look. Inside, the lounge is a generous size, spanning the whole width of the 20ft-wide home.

The main bedroom has a large walk-in wardrobe, with lots of shelving and drawers as well as two hanging areas, alongside the en suite

Barnwell

shower room. There's a bathroom opposite the second bedroom. A coat cupboard is in the hallway, adding to the already capacious storage arrangements.

There's a traditional feel about the Barnwell's furnishings, created by use of classic mushroom shades – teamed with delightful yellow for cushions, and tartan-inspired fabric that upholsters the classic-style armchair.

The Barnwell is available in a choice of four sizes: 40ft by 20ft, 42ft by 20ft, 45ft by 20ft, 46ft by 20ft and one with a study; that's the 50ft by 20ft version.

Barnwell

Barnwell

Cosgrove

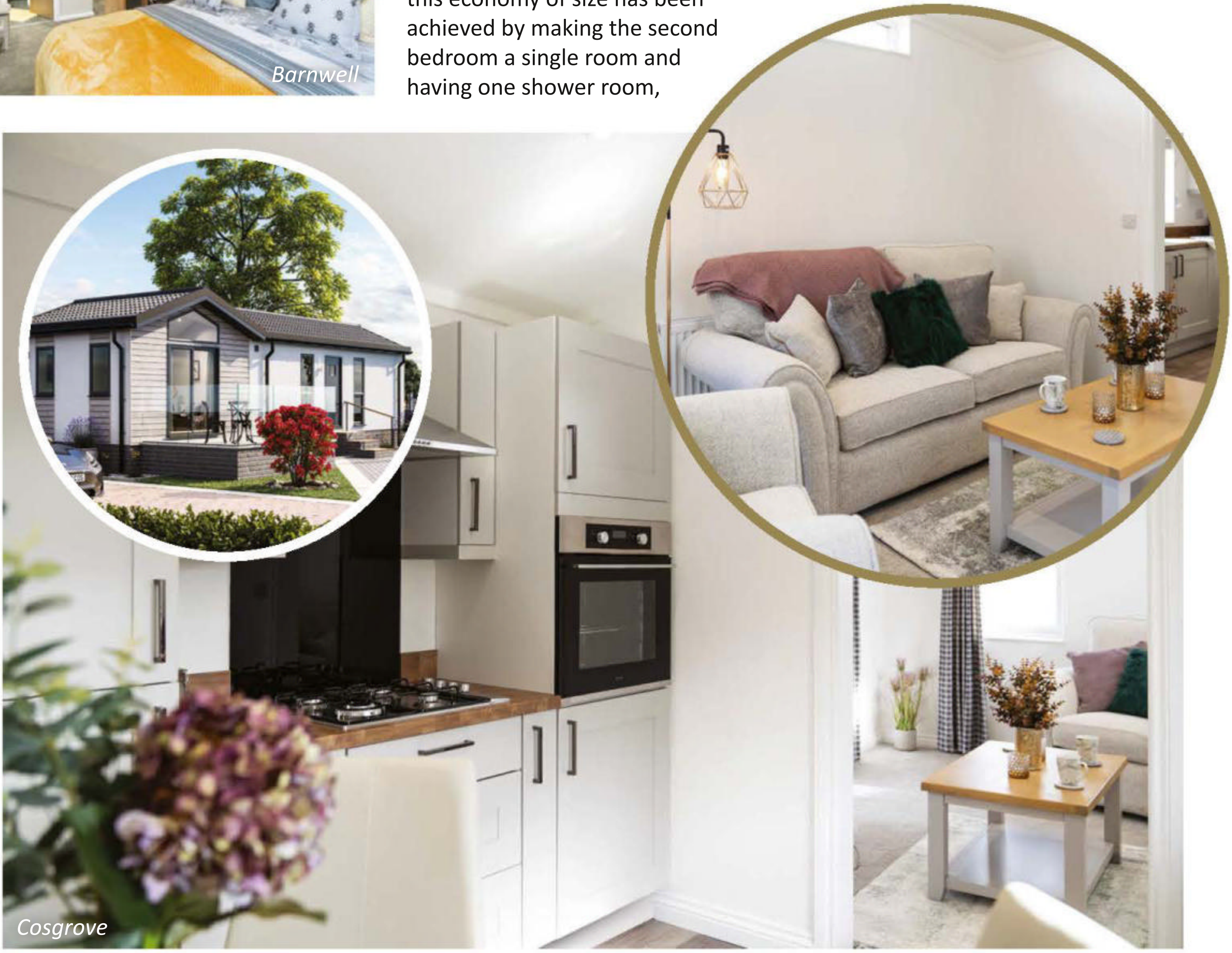
Images: Tingdene

COSGROVE

Like the Barnwell, the Cosgrove residential home is finished in smart white and grey. That's where any similarity ends, though, for the Cosgrove's appeal is to buyers looking for a compact home with a lovely cosy lounge and a combined kitchen/dining room.

It is a 12ft-wide home, and this economy of size has been achieved by making the second bedroom a single room and having one shower room, rather than an en suite to the main bedroom. It's a delightful home with a snug feel.

Following its quickly established popularity, Tingdene launched a second Cosgrove, called the Cosgrove Twin. This model is 20ft wide, and is available in lengths of 40ft, 42ft, 46ft and 50ft. All of these have large kitchen/dining areas and en suite shower rooms to the main bedrooms. The 50ft by 20ft version has three bedrooms.


Cosgrove

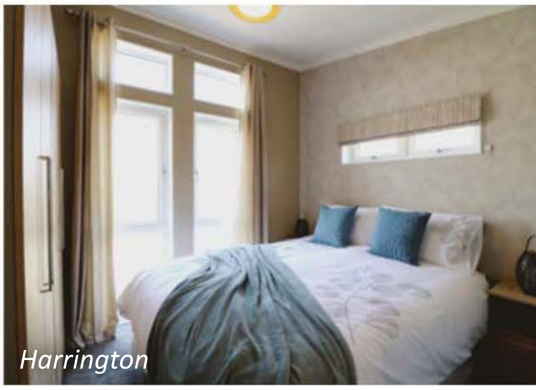
HARRINGTON

Tingdene makes homes for leisure as well as homes for living. And the leisure version of the Harrington shows off this manufacturer's prowess as a creator of lodges perfectly. It also serves to illustrate the wide range of layouts that are on offer; the Harrington lodge comes either with a central lounge/dining/kitchen hub of the home, or a more classic, open plan lounge/dining/kitchen area at one end of the home, with the bedrooms, both with en suites, at the other. A layout with a separate kitchen is also available.

This classic layout has Scandinavian-inspired furnishings and some stunning features. These include two neat rocking chairs, a brise soleil that divides the entrance from the lounge, and an amazing television/media wall, with brushed steel-effect wallpaper within a bold, white frame that has inset spotlights and shelving beneath.

The flooring is whitewashed oak-effect. Chrome pendant lights are above the lounge and dining area, and three glass lights are above the large (four-seater) breakfast bar that provides a division between the kitchen and the dining area.

The smart, white-finished kitchen is galley-style, with the sink on one side, set into the breakfast bar, together with cabinets and two wine racks, each holding five bottles. Opposite is the four-burner hob and oven, together with a large array of drawers and cabinets.


Harrington

The Harrington is available in a choice of layouts; 46ft by 20ft with three bedrooms and a study; 40ft by 20ft with two bedrooms and a large walk-in wardrobe as well as an en suite to the main bedroom; 40ft by 16ft with an en suite to the main bedroom; 36ft by 20ft also with an en suite and walk-in wardrobe; 45ft by 22ft with three bedrooms and a study, and 45ft by 22ft with a utility room and three bedrooms.

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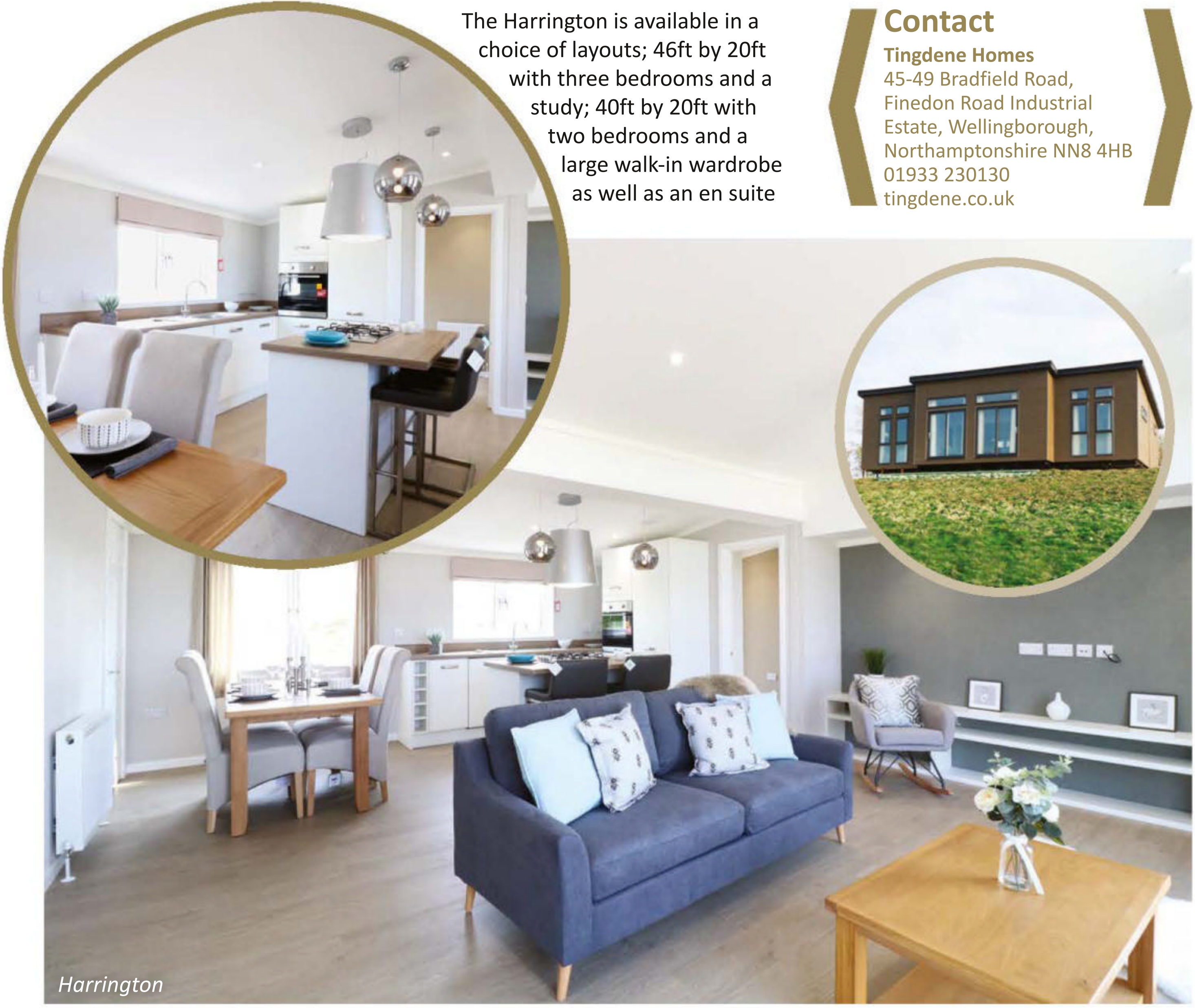
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HOLIDAY LODGE BUYER'S GUIDE

TWO LUXURY HOMES IN BEAUTIFUL BERKSHIRE

Set in magnificent parkland, a park home estate where there is no lower age limit, and a thriving social scene centred around the park's own community centre

In one of the most sought-after areas of Berkshire sits a residential park home estate with a very special character. Warfield Park is in a magnificent parkland setting, amid mature trees. What also makes it special is that there is no lower age limit; residents are welcome to have up to three pets, and the park has its own community centre – a ready-made source of social activities.

Warfield Park is just eight miles from the charming town of Windsor and two miles from Bracknell. The land on which the park sits was once part of Royal Windsor Forest – and the legacy of the era of royal rides and hunting grounds gives the area an air of sophistication. Formal gardens, forests, tree-lined walks and statues are features of the region. And London is just over an hour away.

Warfield, set in more than 90 acres, has a long and fascinating history. Being established more than 70 years ago, it is among Britain's oldest residential park home estates.

Long before that, the estate was purchased by Colonel John Walsh. He built a mansion on the park and his descendant, Lord Ormathwaite, entertained in style. Warfield Park is almost certainly the only park home site to have entertained four kings; in the early twentieth century, Lord Ormathwaite invited King Edward VII, the Kaiser, Alphonse of Spain and the King of Bulgaria to a shoot in the park.

The park's mature trees were planted at the instigation of Lady Jane Walsh, wife of Lord Ormathwaite. These are Wellingtonia trees, and their enormous size makes a great contribution to the character of Warfield Park.

The earliest homes on the park arrived in 1947; 12 caravans – primitive by today's standards, of course, but homes, nonetheless – after the park's then owner, Captain Ian MacLaren, got planning permission to set up a 'residential caravan site'. His aims were to provide his residents 'with maximum privacy, their own garden and to give good service'. His principles are

Words **Val Chapman**

Images: Warfield

still applied today, albeit with park homes that are at the top end of the luxury echelon.

Homes at Warfield are all in large plots, with garages and plenty of garden space. They are arranged in cul-de-sacs, all at differing angles, creating a natural aspect among the trees.

Among new park homes available is a Lissett Odyssey home available now; a 46ft by 22ft home that has a dressing room, study and utility room, and sits in a plot that has a southwest-facing rear garden, already planted, and with a large patio area. This home has a kitchen with an island unit and is fitted with Bosch appliances. The dining area is adjacent and the separate lounge has a double-door entrance from the dining area. This home is priced at £495,000.

Also available is another large, high-spec home made by Lissett. It's an Échappé model, 48ft by 22ft, with two double bedrooms, one with an en suite shower room. The lounge occupies the whole of the width of the home and has French doors to open onto the garden. The kitchen/dining area is equally spacious. The kitchen forms an L-shape, with an island unit/breakfast bar in the centre of the room.

This home has a study, sitting between the kitchen and the main

The Lissett Odyssey

The Lissett Odyssey's stunning kitchen

bathroom, and accessed from the wide corridor that takes you from the entrance hallway to the bedroom area.

Like all of Lissett's homes, the Échappé has luxury at its heart. Its styling is stunningly modern, and with smart grey cladding.

The Échappé is priced at £520,000. Available to reserve now, it is ready to move into at the beginning of June.

Much of the park's reputation as an extremely friendly environment stems from its thriving social scene. The Community Association is run by residents of the park and is based in the park's own community centre. Clubs include a craft group, a choir, a garden club and a Women's Institute branch. Activities include Pilates, line dancing, games and film nights, coffee mornings, darts and table tennis. Weekend events and day trips out are also organised.

The community centre is also home to a hair salon, and Ellie's Beauty, a salon offering a range of treatments including manicures, pedicures, massage and spray tanning.

Another feature that sets Warfield Park apart is that there are park homes available to rent here; an ideal opportunity to experience park home living before you buy.

Contact

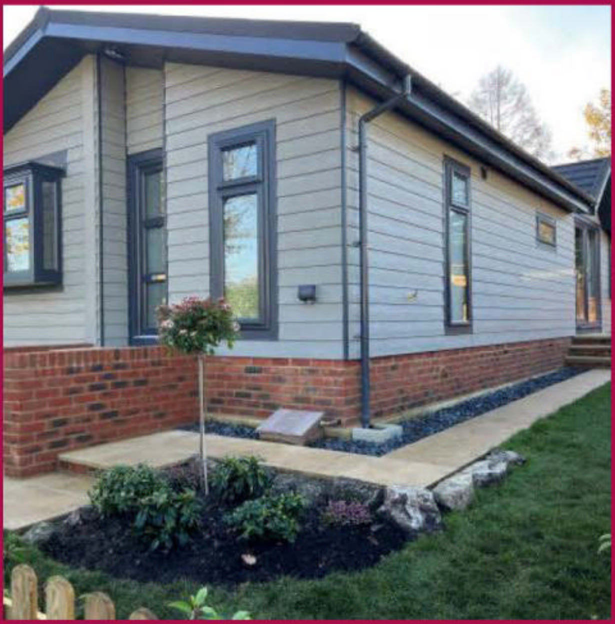
Warfield Park
MacLaren House, Warfield Park,
Bracknell, Berkshire RG42 3RG
01344 884666
warfieldpark.co.uk

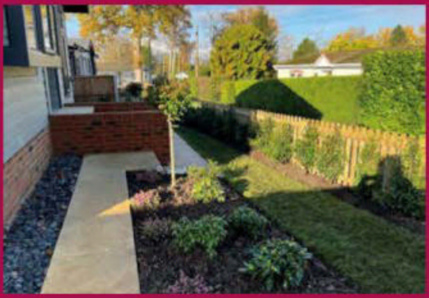
WARFIELD
PARK

A VILLAGE COMMUNITY

With more than 400 privately owned park homes and 75 rental homes, our vibrant thriving community is welcoming and exciting. Nestled in beautiful parklands and surround by greenery, we have been open since 1947 and have become one of most prestigious park addresses in the UK.

There is a well-established Community Association which organises a number of social events and activities on the Park. Weekly activities such as Pilates, the Garden Club and Games Nights run alongside weekend events at least once a month.





New Park Home For Sale

A high specification Lissett Odyssey home (46’ x 22’) with two bedrooms, dressing room, en-suite, family bathroom, lounge, dining room and study. The home is fully furnished with superior fixtures and fittings including Bosch appliances, pocket sprung beds and rain shower. Set within a fully landscaped south west facing rear garden with patio, detached garage and driveway parking.

Priced at £495,000 and available immediately

CONTACT US TO ARRANGE A VIEWING OF THIS STUNNING NEW HOME

01344 884 666
enquiries@warfieldpark.co.uk
warfieldpark.co.uk

MacLaren House
Warfield Park, Bracknell
Berkshire, RG42 3RG

PARK HOME REFURBISHMENT SINCE 1991

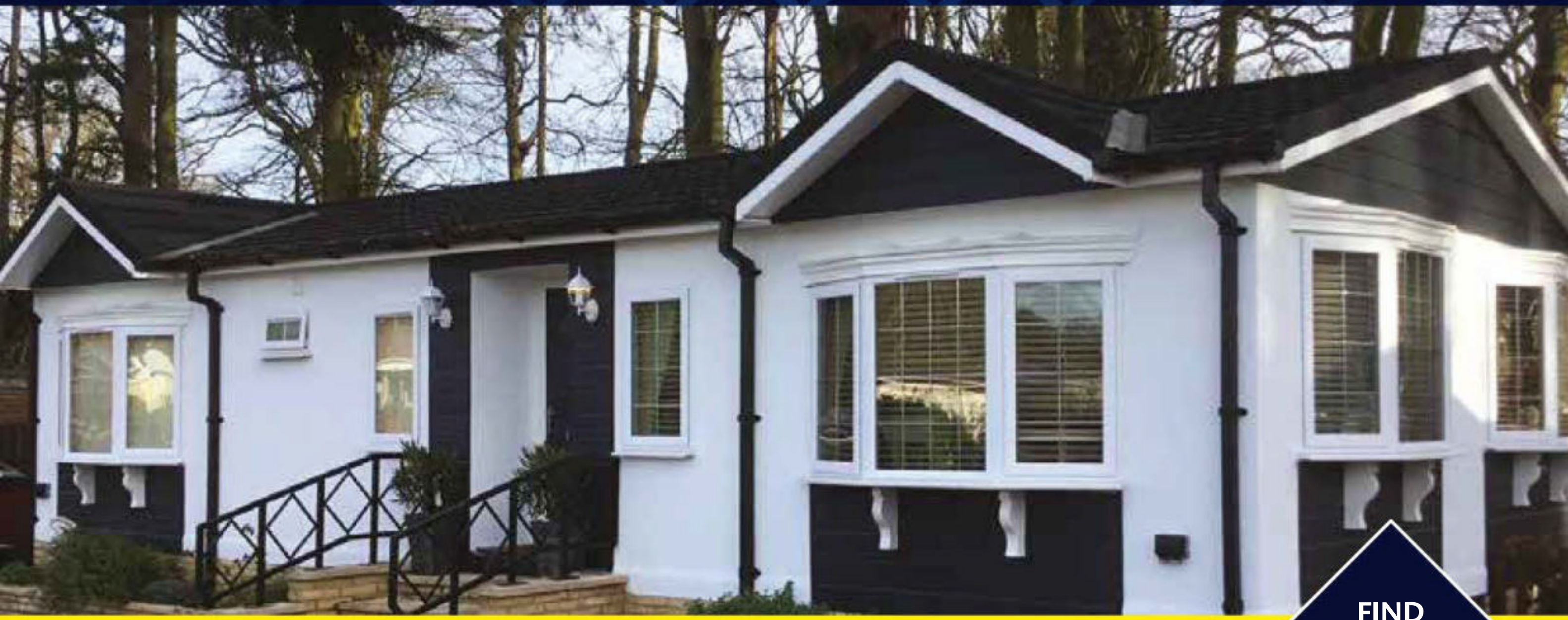


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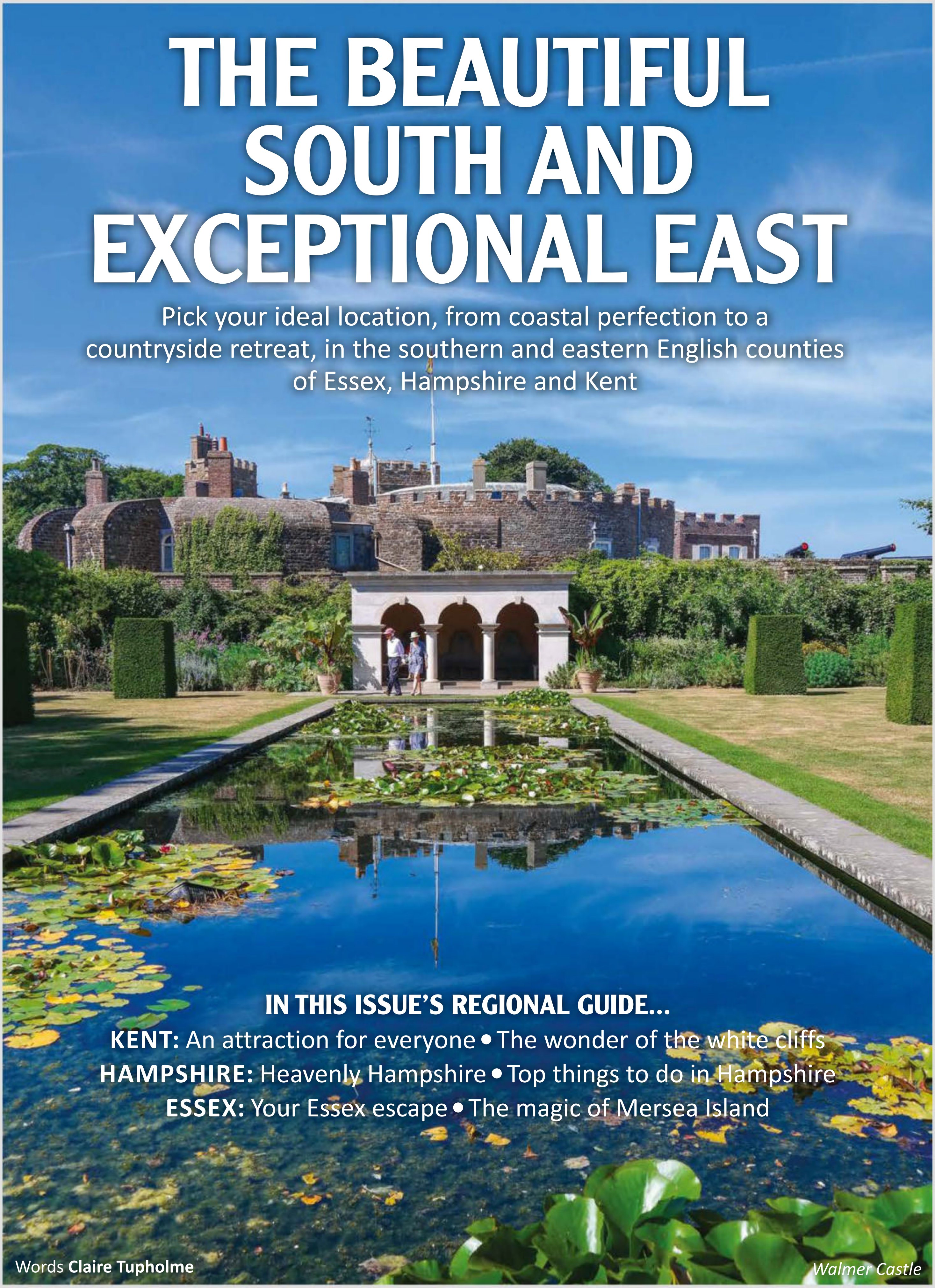
Image: Indira Foto/Pixabay

THE BEAUTIFUL SOUTH AND EXCEPTIONAL EAST

Pick your ideal location, from coastal perfection to a countryside retreat, in the southern and eastern English counties of Essex, Hampshire and Kent



IN THIS ISSUE'S REGIONAL GUIDE...

KENT: An attraction for everyone • The wonder of the white cliffs
HAMPSHIRE: Heavenly Hampshire • Top things to do in Hampshire
ESSEX: Your Essex escape • The magic of Mersea Island

Words **Claire Tupholme**

Walmer Castle

Image: Alan Smither/stock.adobe.com

Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest in autumn

ATTRACTIONS FOR EVERYONE

There's a whole host of things to see and do in the Garden of England, to suit all tastes...

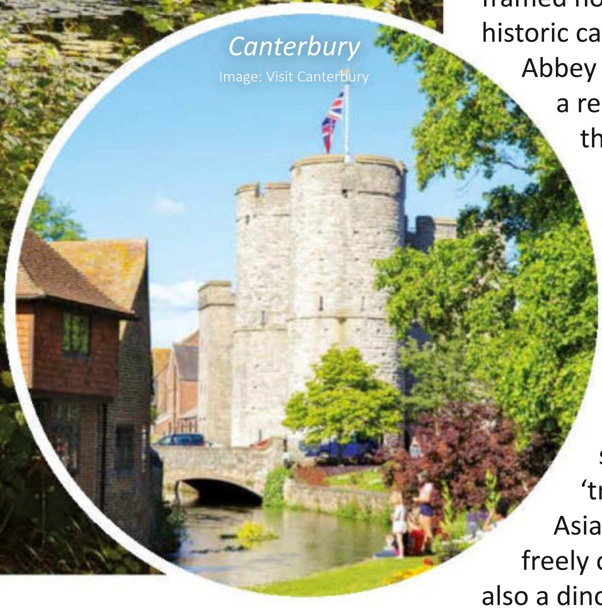
The Big Cat Sanctuary

FOR A TRIP TO REMEMBER

Take the Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch steam railway to Dungeness. The vast shingle landscape of Dungeness and its nuclear power station have a post-apocalyptic feel that needs to be experienced. The headland is a National Nature Reserve. The beach is the largest expanse of shingle beach in Europe and is dotted with rare plants and flowers.

FOR NATURE LOVERS

Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest, three and a half-miles



Canterbury

Image: Visit Canterbury

from Goudhurst, comprises a mix of conifers, broadleaf trees, lakes and ponds within 350 acres of countryside. It is the largest pinetum in the world; visitors can walk, cycle or run miles of tracks.

FOR ANIMAL LOVERS

The Big Cat Sanctuary, set amid countryside, at Smarden, is home to many big cats such as tigers, leopards and cheetahs. It's open on certain days throughout the year, or you can book animal experiences such as feeding the cats, or a photography day.

Image: VisitBritain

Tunbridge Wells

FOR A DAY IN THE CITY

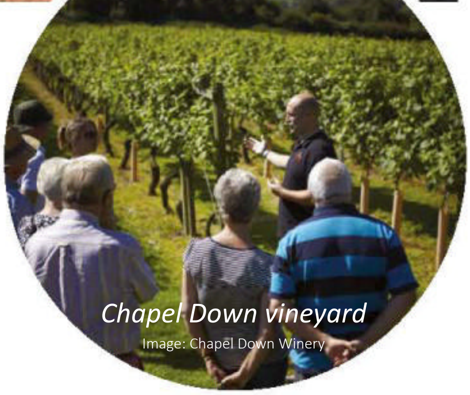
Head to Canterbury, with its ancient walls, cobbled streets and timber-framed houses. There's also the historic cathedral and St Augustine's Abbey to explore, or why not take a relaxing trip punting along the river?

FOR FAMILY FUN

Home to over 700 rare and endangered animals, Port Lympne Hotel & Reserve is a family adventure like no other. With authentic safari experiences, you are 'transported' to Africa and Asia to see animals roaming freely over 600 acres. There's also a dinosaur park, and a choice of places to eat.

FOR SHOPPING

For retail therapy with a difference, visit the famous Tunbridge Wells Pantiles. This is a beautiful open-air promenade surrounded by the original Georgian shop buildings, housing many independently owned boutiques.



Chapel Down vineyard

Image: Chapel Down Winery

FOR A TASTE OF KENT

Featuring the world's largest collection of Victorian oast houses, the Hop Farm, near to Paddock Wood, was a major supplier of hops to London breweries in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Now a family visitor attraction, you can still see the oast houses, and learn about their history.

FOR A LITTLE TIPPLE

Chapel Down Winery, close to Tenterden, is set in 22 acres, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Visitors can explore the grounds, herb garden and vineyards, and, perhaps, book a wine-tasting experience.

The Battle of Britain Memorial

FOR A HISTORICAL REMINDER

Set atop the famous white cliffs, the Battle of Britain Memorial is open throughout the year and free to enter; a place for people to show their respects to the heroes of the Battle of Britain.

FOR BIRDWATCHERS

Oare Marshes Nature Reserve, north of Faversham, is an important area for migratory, overwintering and breeding wetland birds.

FOR PETROLHEADS

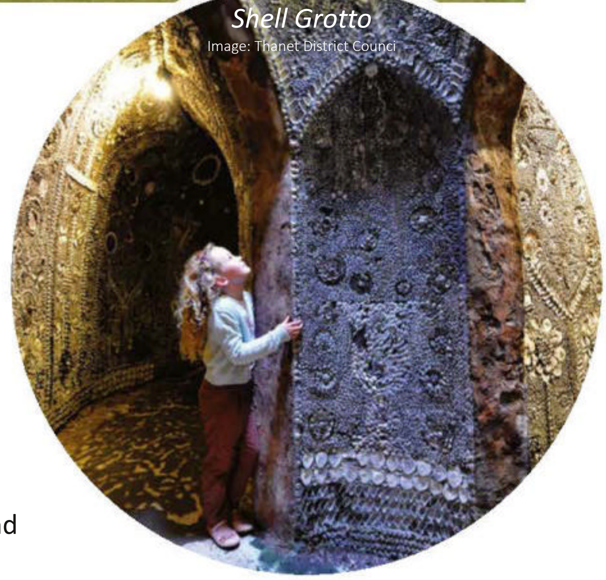
Whether you want to watch touring cars or superbikes race around the track, take your own car for a spin, or enjoy the thrills of a supercar driving experience, Brands Hatch, near Dartford, is the place to be!

FOR A SPOT OF CULTURE

The Turner Contemporary art gallery is located on Margate seafront and displays a wealth of artistic talent from across Kent and beyond. Entry is free. The gallery is named after the noted landscape painter, JMW Turner, who went to school in Margate and visited the town throughout his life.

Chartwell

Image: Steve Payne/Unsplash



Shell Grotto

Image: Thanet District Counci

FOR AN INTEREST IN CHURCHILL

Under the care of the National Trust, Chartwell is a country house near Sevenoaks that was the family home of Winston Churchill for over 40 years. The rooms remain much as they were when he lived there.

FOR A TASTE OF THE HIGH LIFE

Penshurst Place & Gardens is an authentic medieval stately home with 11 acres of formal gardens, along with a vast parkland offering lakes and scenic walks.

FOR A SURPRISE

Take a walk through passageways under Margate, where millions of seashells line the walls and roofs. Known as Shell Grotto, it was discovered by chance, in 1835.

Tulips in the Italian Garden at Penshurst Place

Image: Penshurst Place and Gardens

The Turner Contemporary

Image: Visit Kent

Samphire Hoe

Image: Martin Valigursky/stock.adobe.com

WONDERS OF THE WHITE CLIFFS

To see the white icons of the southeast, don't automatically assume Dover is the place to go...

If you speak to the locals in Kent, they'll happily tell you that, to see the famous white cliffs, you shouldn't head to Dover as the World War II song by Vera Lynn would suggest, but in fact along the coast, between Aycliffe and Capel-le-Ferne.

One of the best places is Samphire Hoe, a few miles west of Dover. This is an entirely man-made nature reserve, created from the chalk marl that was excavated when the Channel Tunnel was made. Twenty years have passed since Samphire Hoe was created and the site is now a haven for wildlife including birds, butterflies, dragonflies and 200 types of plant; among them are rare early spider-orchids.

White Cliffs

Capel-le-Ferne

Image:tomatito26/stock.adobe.com

The dramatic white-cliffs setting and stunning views make Samphire Hoe a great place for a stroll and a picnic. If you head down towards the sea from car park and walk east along the promenade, this will provide the best views of the chalk cliffs in all their glory.

Further west, if you walk along the coast path between Folkestone and Capel-le-Ferne, you will be rewarded with stunning views and spectacular sunsets.

Image: VisitBritain Andrew Pickett

HEAVENLY HAMPSHIRE

Our guide now takes you to Hampshire, for a glimpse of a wonderful combination of coast, countryside and city. This attraction-rich region is a perfect choice for a new start in a park home or for a holiday retreat

Ponies are an iconic attraction of the New Forest
Image: New Forest Tourism

Hampshire contains two national parks, the New Forest and the South Downs – and a coastline that stretches 60 miles, from Highcliffe in the west to Chichester in the east. Country parks, nature reserves and coastal walks abound and the area is rich in heritage and history, particularly within the maritime cities of Southampton and Portsmouth. As well as the national parks, attractions include numerous seaside resorts, and the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu is a top choice for petrolheads.

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Occupying the majority of the southwest corner of Hampshire is the New Forest National Park. Perfect for walkers, cyclists and lovers of the outdoors, the forest is home to ponies, deer and a host of wildlife. There are also pretty villages to be discovered.

On the Hampshire-Dorset border, four miles from the town of Ringwood, is Moors Valley Country Park and Forest, where you can walk and cycle to your heart's content, play golf, go fishing, hire a Segway, enjoy a ride on an authentic steam train, and even scale new heights at the Go Ape Moors Valley treetop adventure – there's plenty to do for many days out for all ages.

Confirmed as a national park in 2009, the stunning South Downs stretches from Winchester and Petersfield in Hampshire, to Eastbourne in East Sussex. Winchester has a magnificent eleventh century cathedral. The pretty market towns of Petersfield and Alton are worthy of many visits, too. Queen Elizabeth Country Park, near Petersfield, is the location of the highest point of the national

Highcliffe

Image: Roman Grac/Pixabay

Cycling in the South Downs National Park

park – Butser Hill. It's 270 metres high, offering panoramic views, with picnic areas and a host of walks throughout the country park.

HAMPSHIRE BEACHES

Hayling Island West Beach

Connected to the mainland by a bridge, Hayling Island boasts more than three miles of Blue Flag beaches; a combination of shingle, dunes and long stretches of sand revealed at low tide. The water is shallow, making it excellent for swimming, especially at West Beach, which is considered to be one of the best on the island. Windsurfing was invented here, and it remains an excellent destination for watersports enthusiasts.

Lepe

Lepe Beach is composed of sand and shingle and is a great venue for birdwatchers and nature enthusiasts, as it forms part of the larger Lepe Country Park, situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Dogs are welcome in the park, although not on the beach. There are excellent coastal walks featuring pine-fringed cliffs and wildflower meadows.

Southsea

Southsea Beach, in Portsmouth, offers a traditional seaside experience with an assortment of pubs, cafés, restaurants and shops. You'll also find an aquarium and a D-Day museum here. The seafront has a promenade, pier and beach huts that can be hired. The beach is made up of flint shingle with a stretch of sand exposed at low tide. Behind the promenade is a recreation area with gardens and a canoeing lake.

Milford on Sea

Part of the New Forest National Park, there is a long shingle beach here. Beach huts line the seafront and there are views of the Isle of Wight. Milford is a traditional village with a range of shops and clifftop walks.

Highcliffe

At Highcliffe there is a stretch of sand and shingle beaches that are ideal for bodyboarding and bathing. Highcliffe is backed by grassy dunes, bushes and low cliffs. The dunes behind the beach are criss-crossed with a number of paths and at the western end is Steamer Point Nature Reserve.

Milford on Sea

Image: New Forest Tourism

The pretty lake at Moors Valley Country Park

Image: Moors Valley Country Park

Highclere Castle

Image: leefenn-tripp/Pixabay

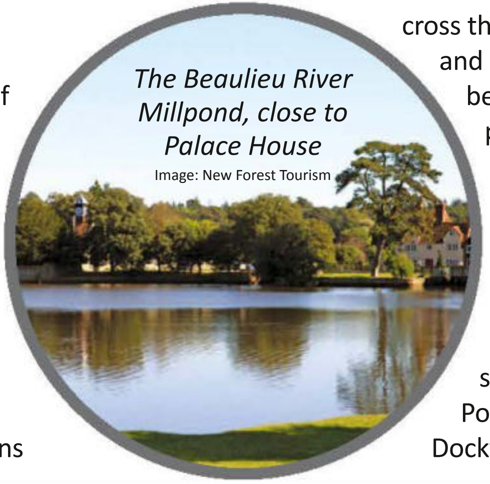
TOP THINGS TO DO IN HAMPSHIRE

HIGHCLERE CASTLE

Home of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, Highclere Castle has an interesting history. During the First World War, Highclere Castle was converted into a hospital for wounded soldiers. It's famous as setting for *Downton Abbey.* There are over 200 rooms in the castle and extensive gardens to explore. This is one of many of Hampshire's attractions that is good for very many visits.

BEAULIEU

In the southeast of the New Forest, Beaulieu is home to various attractions including Palace House (one of the first stately homes to open to the public), the spectacular remains of Beaulieu Abbey, plus extensive gardens. It is the wonderful National Motor Museum that is the big pull for most visitors. You can spend an entire day meandering through the history of cars from the earliest days right through to today's models.



The Beaulieu River Millpond, close to Palace House

Image: New Forest Tourism

PORTSMOUTH

Experience unforgettable views from Portsmouth's stunning 170m-high, spectacular Spinnaker Tower. Those with a head for heights can cross the glass Sky Walk and see the ground below – and then, perhaps enjoy coffee and cake in The Clouds, 105 metres above the harbour. Historians should head for Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see the HMS *Victory*, Nelson's flagship, HMS *Warrior*, Britain's first iron-hulled, armoured battleship, built in 1860, and the *Mary Rose*, Henry VIII's preserved warship that sank close to Portsmouth.

SOUTHAMPTON

The city of Southampton offers a top shopping destination, the WestQuay centre, and superb art and heritage attractions. In the Old Town you will find the refurbished Tudor House and Garden, and Titanic enthusiasts can follow the Titanic Trail to explore the city's Titanic-related sights.

HAYLING SEASIDE RAILWAY

A leisurely one-mile light railway service alongside one of Hayling's Blue Flag beaches. It runs 52 weeks of the year.

FUNLAND HAYLING ISLAND

A great family attraction, the park is packed full of rides and games

The shingle beach of Hayling Island

Image: Maria Halliday/Pixabay

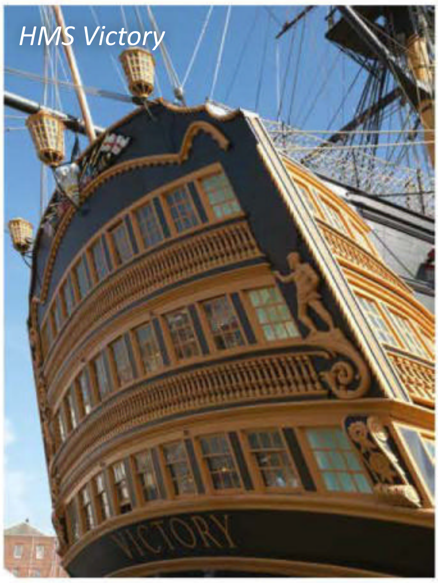

HMS Victory

Image: VisitEngland Visit Hampshire

for visitors of all ages. You can even bring your dog, too.

HURST CASTLE

A fortress by the sea, Hurst Castle sits on a mile-long shingle bank called Hurst Spit, near to the village of Keyhaven.

The castle has a long military history, dating from Tudor times when it was built by Henry VIII to defend the Solent. It is now owned by English Heritage. One of the great attractions of Hurst Castle isn't actually the castle itself – it's the delightful two-mile walk along the shingle bank from Keyhaven.

ALICE HOLT FOREST

Situated four miles south of Farnham, this is a great day out in the woods. Head for new heights with the Go Ape Alice Holt treetop adventure or keep your feet firmly on the ground along the many walking trails which range from gentle walks to longer routes.

WINCHESTER

A cathedral city on the edge of the South Downs National Park and the resting place of Jane Austen, Winchester is well-known for its eleventh century cathedral and for the Great Hall which houses King Arthur's mysterious Round Table.

One of Winchester's many ancient streets

Image: Marius Mangevicius/Pixabay

HAMBLEDON VINEYARD

Three grape varieties are produced here – chardonnay, pinot noir and pinot meunier. Hambledon comprises over 200 acres.

Several visit options are available, including a vineyard tour, a tasting of the Classic Cuvée and afternoon tea, or a tour of the vineyard and winery with wine tasting.

CHAWTON HOUSE

This Elizabethan manor house once belonged to Jane Austen's brother, Edward. The library, house and gardens are open to the public.

Hurst Castle and foreshore

Image: buckerstc/Pixabay

ESSEX ESCAPE

Whether you are seeking out a permanent home or a holiday home in the east of England, Essex is a vibrant county with lots to keep you occupied

Essex combines 350 miles of coastline, areas of natural beauty, a variety of historical buildings and vibrant towns full of culture. Let us take you on a tour around some of the best attractions of Essex…

THE BEACHES

Whether it's a day at the coast that you're after, with amusements and fairground rides, or to relax in pretty gardens by the seafront, Clacton-on-Sea has it all. There's a pier, arcades, theatres, a mix of shops, and walks along the seafront to be enjoyed.

Also a family seaside town, Walton-on-the-Naze sits on the coast between Harwich and Clacton. The pier here is the second-longest in England and the town is unique in that it is surrounded on three sides by the sea. There are three miles of sandy beaches at Walton, and The Naze itself is a natural open space, famed for the many fossils to be found in the red crag cliffs.

The River Stour at Dedham
Image: VisitEssex

In the south of the county is the longest pleasure pier in the world, at Southend-on-Sea. It has a railway to run visitors from one end to the other. The resort has amusements, a funfair, an aquarium, and crazy golf, along with museums and galleries. Three miles east of the town is Shoeburyness, with a long sandy beach that is popular with kitesurfers and paddleboarders.

Frinton-on-Sea has a reputation as an exclusive resort, with tree-lined avenues and an elegant esplanade. The quiet, sandy beach is lined with Victorian-style beach huts.

On the mouth of the River Colne lies the small coastal town of Brightlingsea where, if you walk along the Western Promenade, you'll see the Grade II listed Bateman's Tower in the distance.

PICTURE PERFECT

Known as Constable Country, the Essex-Suffolk border is popular with artists and tourists alike. The artist, John Constable, was born in

Flatford Mill

Walton-on-the-Naze

Image: blueprint2015/Pixabay

Batemans's Tower

Image: Bejamin Thomas/Pixabay

Suffolk and he is well-known for his landscape paintings of Dedham Vale, which incorporates picturesque villages, rolling farmland, rivers, meadows and woodland. The vale is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and, located within it, is the National Trust's Flatford Mill, forever immortalised in Constable's famous painting *The Hay Wain*.

THAXTED

Between Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow is the beautiful small town of Thaxted. The church and historic windmill, with its white sails, dominate the town and the surrounding area.

COLCHESTER

The rich history of Colchester dates back over 2,000 years. Attractions include the castle, with the largest Norman keep in Europe, and the family favourite – Colchester Zoo.

HADLEIGH CASTLE

The ruins of this castle look out over the Leigh Marshes and Thames Estuary, from the top of a steep slope. The ruins comprise a 15m tower plus a second tower.

AUDLEY END HOUSE & GARDENS

A grand mansion with state rooms, a servants' wing, stables and kitchen garden to explore, along with the beautiful grounds that were remodelled by Capability Brown.

THORNDON COUNTRY PARK

This park features a variety of habitats including ancient woodland, parkland, ponds, marsh and meadow, with some ancient trees as a reminder that the area was once a deer park. There are a variety of walking routes here, plus a visitor centre, café and picnic area.

Colchester Castle

Image: Nicola/ stock.adobe.com

Thaxted

Image: Ron Porter/ Pixabay

Image: Helen Hotson/stock.adobe.com

MERSEA ISLAND

For anyone living or spending leisure time in Essex, Mersea Island is somewhere to visit regularly, and it brings with it a feel of adventure!

You approach the most easterly inhabited island in England via a causeway from the mainland. The causeway floods at high spring tide, cutting the island off from the mainland. The island is just eight miles roughly square and has two quite different sides – West Mersea and East Mersea.

West Mersea is probably the most popular side, for beach lovers and foodies. You simply must feast on the fresh native oysters here; it's what West Mersea is renowned for. You can also enjoy watching the sailboats, or take to the waters yourself and experience the delights of windsurfing or kitesurfing.

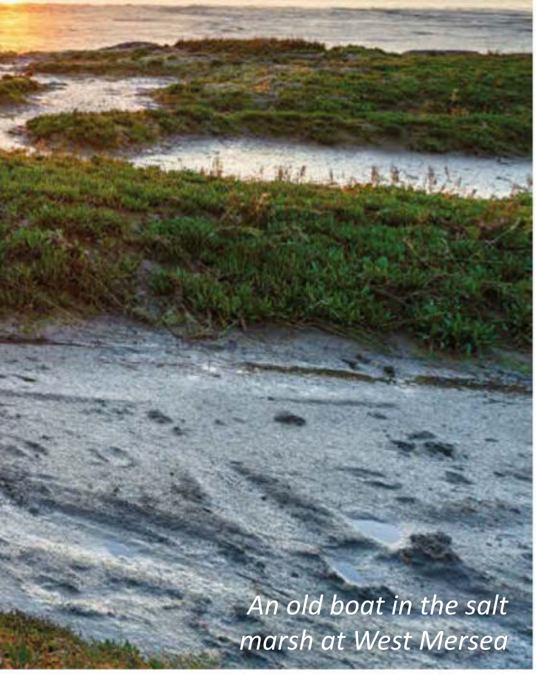
East Mersea is much smaller, with a church, pub and village store, and it is also home to Cudmore Grove Country Park. You can walk along the small, sandy beach and enjoy views across Brightlingsea Reach. There's also marshland and grassland, perfect for picnics and, in winter, you'll spot migrating birds such as flocks of brent geese.

There are many walking routes on the island, with an abundance

Image: Margaret Clavell/stock.adobe.com

Coloured beach huts at West Mersea

One of the beaches on Mersea Island
Image: John D Williams/stock.adobe.com



An old boat in the salt marsh at West Mersea

of wildlife to see, and taking you past historical sites, including Second World World War pillboxes and gun emplacements.

One way to see a vast amount of the island is via a 13-mile walk that we recommend and can be done in one day, or could be split over two shorter days, if you arrange for transport at the halfway point. The first half takes you along the sea wall in the north of the island, with mud flats on one side and fields on the other. The southern half goes through the more built-up part of the island, along the beach and past beach huts and chalets.

Your walk starts from the town of West Mersea, taking you west along the coast road, past the Victory pub, and the Coast Inn before leaving the main road and heading along the sea wall. The route then passes along the Strood Channel, with views over the water to Ray Island Nature Reserve and Langenhoehall Marsh before heading inland.

You'll briefly find yourself on a main road, but, after a few hundred yards, you take the footpath that follows the line of the sea wall around the coast. Continue alongside the mud flat of the Pyefleet Channel to Reeves Hall Marsh, where there are good views over the water to uninhabited Pewit Island, once the centre of a thriving oyster industry.

Past the island, stay on the sea wall, passing Mersea Stone where there's a ferry to the mainland during the summer. The route continues to Cudmore Grove Country Park. Look out for a variety of wildlife including marsh harriers and water voles.

A pillbox on the East Mersea flats
Image: Nicola/stock.adobe.com

The walk then passes along the south side of the island, with views over the East Mersea Flats to the Blackwater Estuary. You have the choice to walk along the sea wall or on the beach. At high tide the beach gets completely submerged with no exit points, so if the water is encroaching, take the sea wall option. The final section takes you along the coast through West Mersea past the beach huts to the finish point in the centre of town.

For post-walk rewards to enjoy back at your park home or holiday home, head to the Mersea Island Vineyard where fine wines and real ale are produced and sold in the Vineyard Café. Tours include a look around the vineyard and winery, followed by wine tasting and a tempting platter of seafood, perhaps.

West Mersea

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HOLIDAY HOME CONTENTS

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Image: Yorkshire Holiday Parks

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Image: Willerby

Willerby Brookwood

Words **Val Chapman**

STAYCATION PRIDE

We discover a new phrase… And it reminds us that there’s no shame in focusing leisure time attention on our own shores – let us inspire you!

Remember all those new phrases that entered our vocabulary as the ‘new normal’ (that’s one of them) evolved from the Covid catastrophe? Social distancing, self-isolating, bubble, and (one of my favourites), covidiot, (in case you are in any doubt, that’s someone who ignored the Boris order ‘you must stay at home’).

Is this unprecedented flurry of lexical innovation over? I thought it was. Until, just before the end of 2022, someone with whom I work in the holiday home manufacturing arena introduced me to a new phrase: ‘staycation shame’. This is about being made to feel ashamed for holidaying in the UK, rather than jetting about burning up fossil fuels.

I greeted it with a mixture of dismay and curiosity tinged with anger. And it set me thinking. First thoughts centred around

Pemberton Avon

Image: Pemberton

Prestige Botanic

Image: Prestige

Atlas Jasmine

Image: Atlas

Victory Bower

Image: Victory

judgemental irritation: what right has anyone to even attempt to make someone ashamed for not venturing abroad? (That's the anger bit over.)

Then I began to see the bigger, much more positive, picture. Actually, we should be proud of a decision to focus our leisure time pursuits on British soils. Proud, not just because we are making our own infinitesimal contribution to the global effort by shunning flying. But proud of our own island nations and all that they offer.

Our homelands are great places to spend our leisure time – and a great place in which to invest in a holiday home or lodge that will enrich your leisure time. So, with thoughts of turning the 'staycation shame' phrase on its head, into 'staycation pride', here are some location ideas, and a snapshot of the amazing choice of holiday homes and lodges on the market, to inspire you to explore the benefits of buying a holiday home.

Most people buy a holiday home within two hours of their home; that way, they'll be able to spend time there more often. But with the increasing popularity of buying to let, you could think further afield, and spend main holidays there, rather than weekends. And the rest of the time, your holiday home can be making money for you.

Some obvious examples: Wales, for coast, countryside and mountains… Scotland, for islands, lochs and remote regions… North Norfolk, for gorgeous family beaches, pretty villages and bird and seal watching…

Now for a few of the latest holiday homes to tempt you.

From Victory comes the Bower, created with the needs of a young family in mind. There's a bathroom en suite to the second bedroom, and space for a high chair by the dining table. This is a 12ft wide home. At the other end of the size and luxury spectrum is the Victory Franklin lodge, reviewed in this issue.

A stunning example of a holiday lodge from Prestige is the Botanic, with interior design inspired by nature, and available with either two or three bedrooms.

Pemberton Park & Leisure Homes' wide range includes some that are specifically designed to appeal to first-time buyers, created with affordability in mind. Among these are the Avon and the Marlow.

Willerby's Brookwood has an amazing layout with a large L-shaped dining area, enormous kitchen and a lovely pale colour palette.

One of the most popular units in the Atlas Leisure Homes range is the 43ft by 14ft Jasmine Lodge; spacious, comprehensively equipped, and with plenty of storage capacity.

And Regal's new Retreat is designed to tempt new holiday home owners, at a price level aimed at those for whom affordability is paramount. Bright, super-modern styling, incorporating dark blue cabinet doors and a seaside vibe, make the Retreat one of the most outstanding new homes to arrive on the market for 2023.

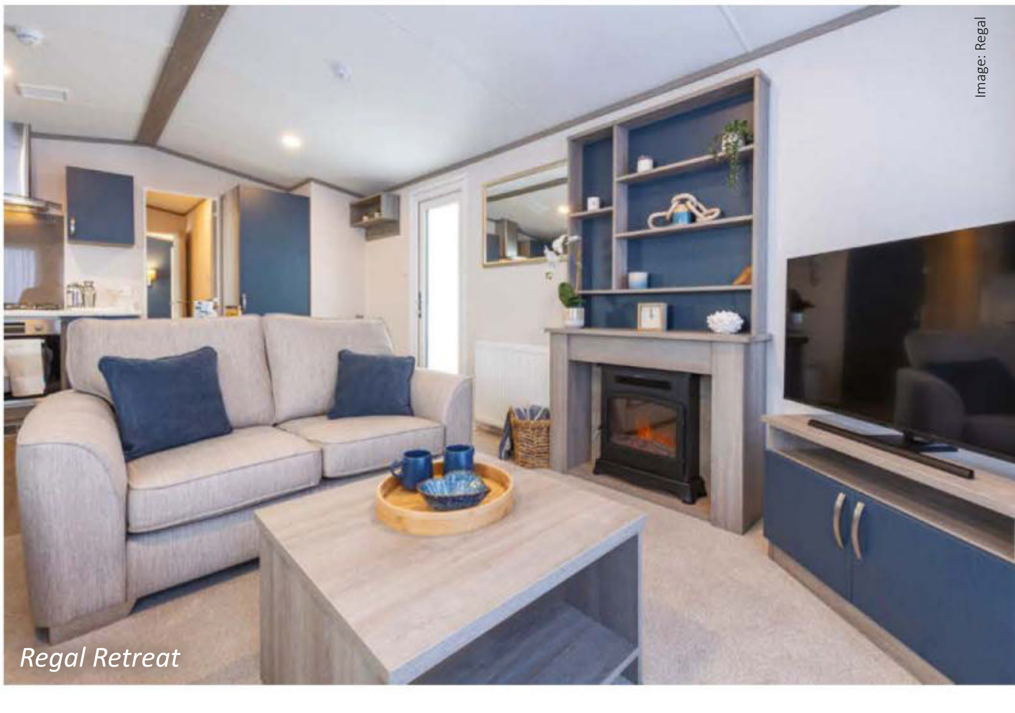
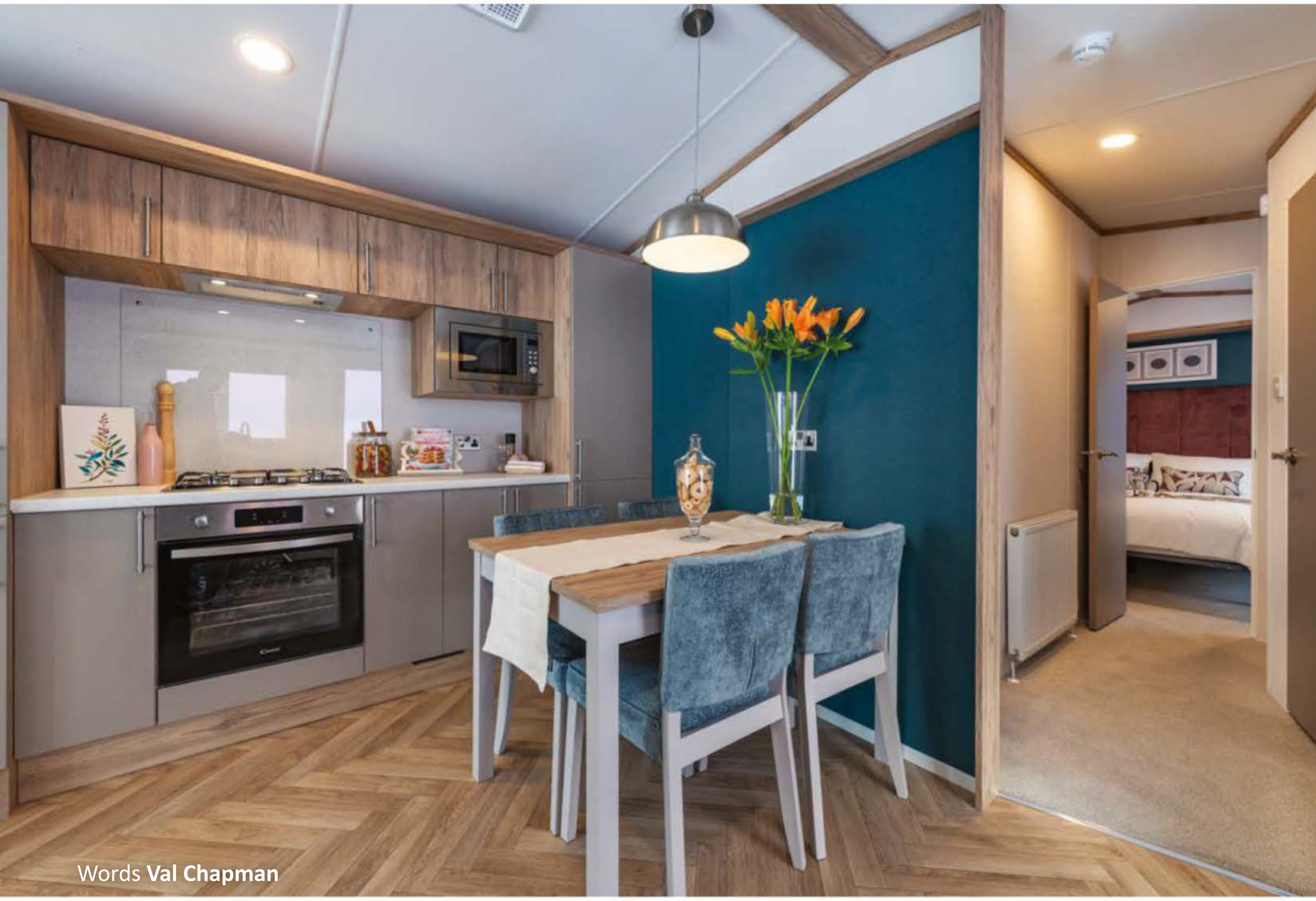

Regal Retreat

Image: Regal



Words **Val Chapman**

A HUGE KITCHEN AND STUNNING COLOURS

A large central kitchen of a unique and innovative design, and rich accent colours characterise the new Regal Hemsworth

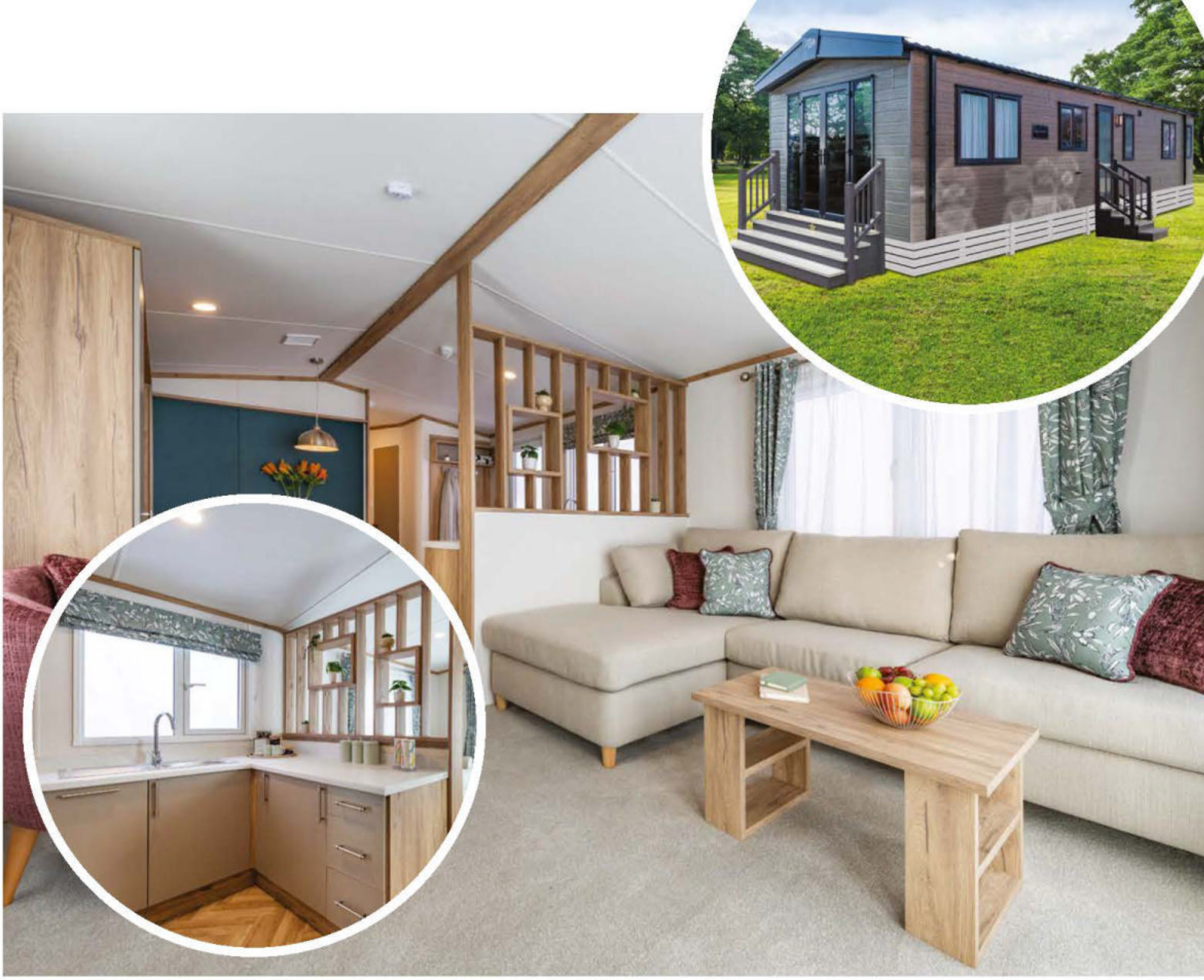
The Hemsworth was first launched in 2019, then underwent a refresh when Regal Leisure Homes became part of the Omar Group. Now, for 2023, it has a new look – and an innovatively designed kitchen and dining area. Signature design elements are two rich deep colours: a dark turquoise, and, a tactile plum fabric.

As you step in through the side door, an upholstered boot seat, three coat hooks, and shelves both above and below, take care of the practicalities. You're immediately in the kitchen/dining room, a super-spacious and welcoming area.

It spans the whole width of the home. An L-shaped area is alongside the door, cleverly designed so that one side forms a divide with the lounge, with integrated shelves.

This area of the kitchen houses the sink and three cabinets (two large ones and one smaller), plus three drawers, and also a dishwasher and a washing machine as optional features.

Opposite is the cooking zone, with a four-burner hob, microwave, oven/grill, and fridge/freezer. Cabinets are above and below; plus, there is space for tall items alongside the central heating unit.



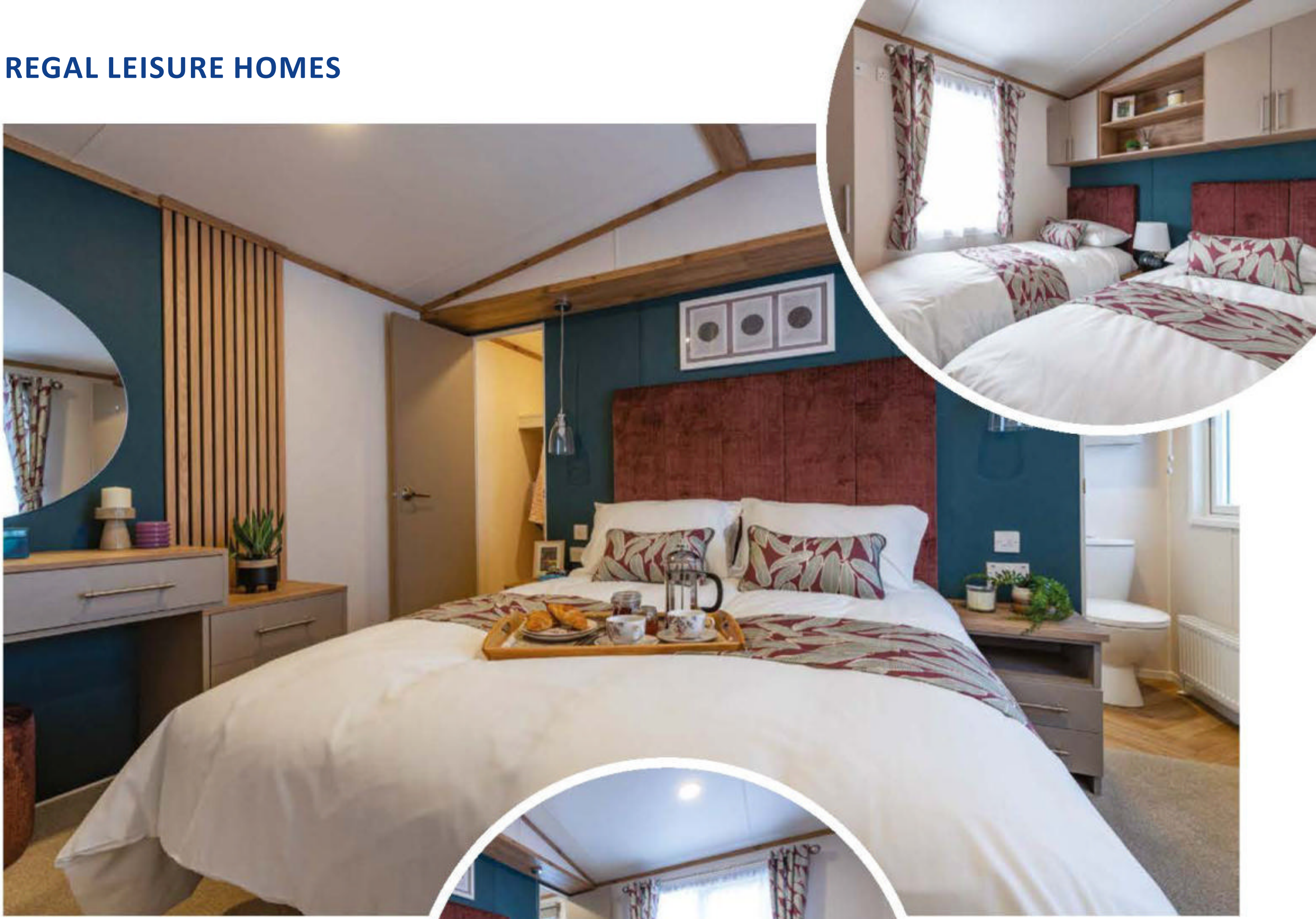
In between the two sectors of the kitchen is the hub of the home – the dining table – with a stylish steel pendant light focusing plenty of light down on the eating zone.

The matt fawn of the kitchen cabinetry, integrated with reclaimed wood-style for the recessed top cabinets above the hob and microwave, brings together super-modern and natural styling elements. All of the cabinets and drawers have simple, steel bar handles, emphasising the modern aspect of the styling.

A stunning feature of the kitchen/dining area is a wall finished in a dark aquamarine colour. The dining chairs, in a tactile, high-quality, velvet-like fabric, tone nicely with the wall; several shades paler. This hue links superbly with the background colour of the curtains, the kitchen's Roman-style blind, and the cushions; the fabric has a white pattern outlined in dark grey, of leaves, flowers and birds, injecting a natural look. The subtle reclaimed wood styling adds to the natural character of the Hemsworth. That includes distinctive herringbone-pattered flooring in the kitchen/dining area.

Beyond, the lounge has a large, L-shaped sofa, plus an armchair,

Images: Regal



upholstered in a rich plum shade, tactile fabric, positioned by the media wall, where the television space has cabinets beneath and shelving alongside.

Exploring the bedroom zone, you first find the twin room, with fully domestic-width beds. Tall bedheads are upholstered in fabric that matches the tactile material of the lounge's armchair. And behind them, more of the deep, rich turquoise that is used for the dining area's feature wall; stunning!

Along the corridor is a luxurious bedroom of a charming layout, with doors on each side of the bed. One leads to an en suite shower room; the other to a walk-in wardrobe/dressing room. Two hanging areas with four shelves between them, and a large shelf spanning the whole width of the dressing room, ensure that there is plenty of hideaway space.

The subtle reclaimed wood styling makes an appearance here, too, for the dressing table surface, which is on two levels, with a chest of three drawers slightly lower than the main dressing table area, which has two drawers. A cylindrical stool upholstered in the same fabric as the lounge armchair, and a large, circular mirror, make this a lovely, luxurious dressing table area.

The bedhead upholstery matches the stool, and, like those in the twin room, is set against more of the Hemsworth's signature dark aquamarine wall covering.

The new Hemsworth's distinctive colours, and its amazingly large kitchen/dining area, make it an outstanding holiday home.

Contact

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Woolsbridge Industrial Park,
Three Legged Cross, Wimborne,
Dorset BH21 6SU
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Images: Rob Scamp/ Discover Parks

Words **Val Chapman**

ESCAPE TO HEREFORDSHIRE

Arrow Bank Country Holiday Park

Fishing lakes, tranquillity and amazing scenery amid the Welsh borderlands; a choice of three parks, one of them on the edge of a spectacular Tudor village...

On the fringe of the pretty Tudor village of Eardisland, in north Herefordshire, sits a holiday park with a special character. Natural beauty abounds; it's a spectacular riverside location, with both river and pool fishing at the heart of its attraction. Fishing is free for holiday home owners on the park.

Arrow Bank Country Holiday Park is, as its name implies, on the banks of the River Arrow that meanders its way through the park. It's a superbly relaxing environment with a get-away-from-it-all appeal. Dogs are welcome on the park, which is located in the heart of fantastic walking country. And the park has its own nature trail and woodland walk.

Luxury holiday homes are available in water's edge locations. These include the 2023 Regal Hemsworth, reviewed in this issue.

Arrow Bank's location puts it in a class of its own; that's not just about its waterside attributes. It's about its position on the edge of Eardisland, a village of black-and-white, half-timbered buildings built in Tudor times; some of them thatched. The village dates back to the Bronze Age. Among the most fascinating features is a 300-year-old dovecote, a moated castle, and a manor house, built in the seventeenth century, and, opposite, a curio: an AA kiosk that is thought to be the oldest in existence, built in 1920! A network of these kiosks once existed all over Britain; AA members had keys to them, and could obtain a lamp, maps and tools. Later, they were fitted with phones so that motorists could summon AA assistance.

Arrow Bank Country Holiday Park

Eardisland is two miles east of Pembridge and around five miles from the market town of Leominster.

Pembridge, like Eardisland, is famous for its spectacular black and white buildings. It has an open-sided market building constructed of oak posts and a slate roof. This village, like Eardisland, is on what is known as the Black and White Village Trail. A circular route that takes you 40 miles, through the Arrow Valley, to the pretty, ancient town of Leominster, and through nine villages.

Arrow Bank Country Holiday Park spans 63 acres and offers gorgeous views over the river, fishing lakes and fields. It's extremely quiet – and there is no light pollution, meaning that stargazing is an attraction. If you love being surrounded by nature, and if you love fishing, you'll love Arrow Bank. A new feature for 2023 is a carp fishing venue called Jennifer's Pool.

Homes for sale, in addition to the Regal Hemsworth that is priced at £79,995, include a 41ft by 13ft Atlas Sherwood Lodge at £76,995; a 40ft by 13ft ABI Ingleton at £79,995; a Sunseeker Supreme, 41ft by 13ft, at £79,995, and a 36ft by 12ft ABI Sunningdale at £39,995.

Rockbridge Park

Pearl Lake Holiday Park

Arrow Bank is one of three parks in the Discover Parks group. All offer fishing. Pearl Lake Holiday Park is set in 80 acres and has its own lakeside bar and bistro, and golf course. It's on the edge of Shobdon village, in north Herefordshire. Rockbridge Park is on the banks of the River Lugg, not far from Ludlow and Presteigne; an ideal location for exploring mid Wales.

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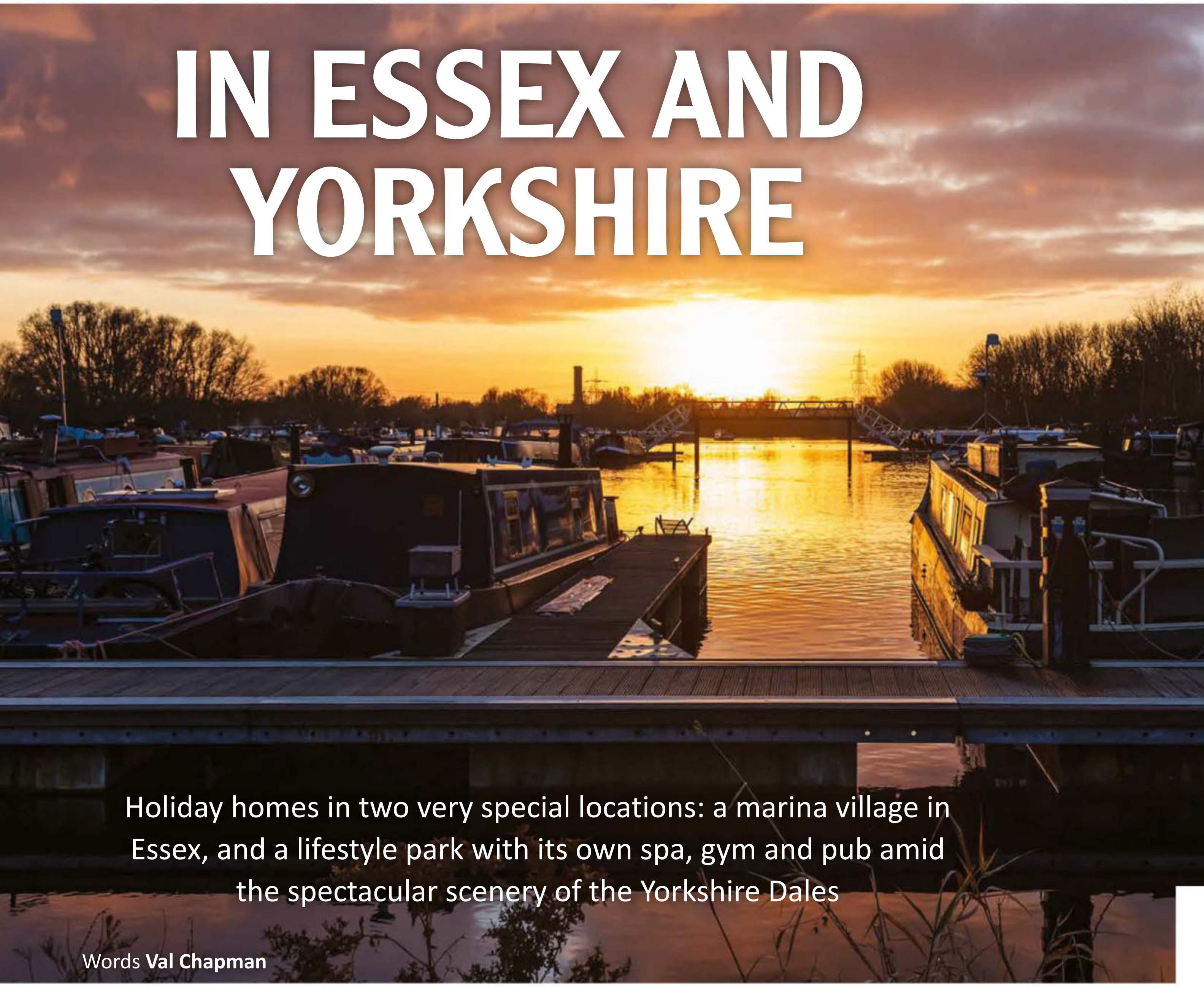

Holiday homes in two very special locations: a marina village in Essex, and a lifestyle park with its own spa, gym and pub amid the spectacular scenery of the Yorkshire Dales

Words **Val Chapman**

Just a half-hour train journey from central London, yet situated amid lovely Essex countryside, Roydon Marina Village is a parkland location adjacent to a lake in the Lee Valley Regional Park, offering gardens, nature reserves, fishing, walking and cycling routes and more.

It's home to both luxury leisure lodges and residential park homes. And, in the next few weeks, five new leisure lodges will be available. One is made by Lissett, which manufactures luxury homes at Pocklington, in Yorkshire. Two are from Harbur Park and Leisure Homes, a new manufacturer utilising modern construction to achieve the best in energy-efficient living. With different interior design schemes, these lodges will appeal to buyers seeking both modern and more conventional themes. And two are from Northern Ireland manufacturer, Jans Modular. One, already on the park, is a Jans Herring Centre Lounge lodge, with an open-plan lounge/kitchen/dining area designed with entertaining in mind.

Design majors on natural textures in this 40ft by 22ft lodge, featuring enormous windows to open onto decking. This lodge, with bedrooms at each end, has a utility room housing a washing machine and boot room. The kitchen units are finished in a stunning and unusual pale green shade. A microwave and oven/grill are arranged tower-style, at waist height. Equipment includes a four-zone ceramic hob and a wine cooler.

Outstanding elements are feature walls in the lounge and bedrooms composed of a connecting-circle design in pale gold shades.

These lodges have a 50-year licence agreement and Roydon Marina Village has a 12-month holiday season.

This park has holiday homes available for hire – so you can spend a few days here, getting to know the park and the region, before you buy your own holiday home or

Images: Lakeland Leisure

lodge. It's a chance to explore the area, including The Gibberd Garden, a nine-acre garden featuring sculptures, streams, and an arboretum, just seven miles from the park.

Roydon Marina Village is one of nine parks and marinas in the Lakeland Leisure portfolio. Among them is Long Ashes Park, in the Yorkshire Dales. It's five minutes' drive from the pretty village of Grassington, in the Wharfedale Valley, famous for its spectacular scenery and quaint villages. Both residential park homes and holiday homes are available at this park, nestling amid the landscapes that inspired the Brontë sisters to write their dramatic novels. The Brontë Parsonage Museum, at Haworth, 23 miles south of Long Ashes Park, contains a vast collection of manuscripts and early editions of the sisters' novels and poetry.

Long Ashes Park has its own pub, the Gamekeeper's Inn, a beautiful stone building that was once a gamekeeper's cottage. The inn serves traditional pub favourites, and also offers a takeaway service.

The park is a lifestyle destination that also has a leisure club, with swimming pool, sauna, Jacuzzi and gym, plus a café, and also a spa, called Long Ashes Pure Spa.

Among new holiday homes currently available are, from Willerby, a Linwood at £70,000, a Manor at £80,500, and a Brookwood at £76,000. There is also a Victory Lochwood, at £78,000.

Lodges for sale include an open-plan lodge, the last one available on the park's exclusive Thorpe View area, at £350,000.

Four lodges are available for hire at Long Ashes Park, so that you can get to know the area before you purchase your own place here.

Contact

Roydon Marina Village
Roydon, Essex CM19 5EJ
01279 792777
roydonmarinavillage.co.uk

Long Ashes Park
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EXPLORE NORTH YORKSHIRE…

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Words **Val Chapman**

Cawood Park

Imagine… your own place on an island in a river, or beside a lake, or nestling in pine woodland. Yorkshire Holiday Parks' three superb locations offer you all this choice – and with a wealth of interesting places within easy reach, to explore from your holiday home base.

The three parks are Weir Holiday Park, a little over eight miles from York; Allerton Park, close to Knaresborough; and Cawood Park, 10 miles south of York.

Try before you buy

If you are considering buying a holiday home but still need to be 100% convinced about the lifestyle virtues of ownership, it's worth knowing that all three parks offer an opportunity to try before you buy; you can hire a holiday home for a short break.

Weir Park

WEIR PARK

This park is spectacularly located on an island. It's alongside a picturesque weir. It has its own fishing pond and many waterside plots. The park is accessed by its own bridge.

This is a magical location, quiet – yet close to the village of Stamford Bridge. It's just over eight miles from York, and is also within half an hour's drive of the coast.

The island is a haven for wildlife. Weir Park has won awards under the David Bellamy Conservation Awards scheme, for protecting and enhancing nature, and for its hedgerows. It's also certified

Images: Yorkshire Holiday Parks

Weir Park

by the scheme as being bee friendly. Stamford Bridge, which is spectacularly divided into two areas by the River Derwent, is the site of the Battle of Stamford Bridge that marked the end of the Viking era in Britain. The village is known for its good choice of restaurants and bars.

ALLERTON PARK

Set amid pine woodland, this park is ideally located for exploring the Yorkshire Dales and north Yorkshire. It is 10 minutes' drive from Knaresborough and 15 minutes from Harrogate.

Allerton Park has an 11-month season; it closes 4 January, so owners can enjoy Christmas and New Year at their holiday homes.

The park is adjacent to Allerton Castle, a fine stately home set in 200 acres of beautiful grounds. The castle, with roots that stretch back to 1066, is a magnificent Gothic-style mansion that dominates the landscape.

Medieval Knaresborough is an inland resort. The town sits on cliffs above the River Nidd. There's a weekly market in the town, which is well known for its good choice of eateries, its niche shops and its riverside promenade – and also the spectacular viaduct than spans the river gorge.

Knaresborough is famous as the home of England's oldest visitor attraction, the mystical Mother Shipton's Cave and Petrifying Well, which has been open since 1630, and tells of the legend of water turning objects to stone.

Like Weir Park, Allerton Park is

Allerton Park

Homes for sale

- **Weir Park** has new holiday homes for sale, with their own river or canal frontage, and large front and side verandas from £46,995. A selection of pre-owned units are often available to enjoy from as little as £14,995.
- **Allerton Park** allows you to get into holiday home ownership from as little as £17,995, with homes sited on woodland plots. And you can take your choice of new holiday homes located in The Elms ranging from £49,995 all the way up to new 40ft by 20ft lodges at £149,995.
- **At Cawood Park,** starter holiday homes are available from £24,995 upwards to pre-enjoyed lodge-spec holiday homes with lake views. New stock is often availble to view on the park and lakeside plots are advertised as they become available.

Yorkshire Holiday Parks can also supply any make of holiday home, to customers' requirements.

For 2023, annual plot fees are £3,495 at Allerton Park and Weir Park, and £5,245 at Cawood Park for a 12-month season. Please see the website for the latest stock, or visit the park.

Cawood Park

a quiet location and a haven for wildlife; the Hind family, owners of all three of the Yorkshire Holiday Parks, are passionate about encouraging wildlife and natural flora and fauna on the parks.

Cawood Park

CAWOOD PARK

This park has its own lake, and is in a 12-acre country park setting on the bank of the River Wharfe.

Cawood has an indoor swimming pool, shop, a restaurant (with lake views and a terrace) serving food from breakfast through to supper, a bar, and entertainment takes place here at weekends. It's 10 miles south of York, on the edge of Cawood village.

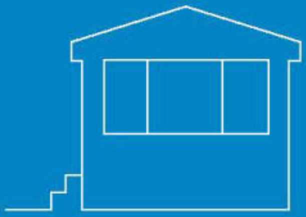
The park's location makes trips to the coast easy, as well as exploring the magnificent city of York many times over. Having a holiday home at Cawood, you'd be well placed to discover this vibrant city's Viking and Roman history, its museums, river cruises, the Shambles Market, the National Railway Museum and, of course, York Minster. There are several park and ride routes starting from various points on the edge of the city, making visiting York easy.

This park has a 12-month season.

Cawood Park

Contact

Allerton Park 01423 330569
Cawood Park 01757 268450
Weir Park 01759 371377
yorkshireholidayparks.co.uk



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Words **Val Chapman**

FISHING IN NORFOLK

A park where five fishing lakes are the attraction – and lake-edge holiday home pitches are available

Amid the beauty and serenity of Norfolk, just four miles from the small town of Aylsham and only seven miles from Norwich, lies a park where fishing is the hub of the attraction.

Cobbleacre Park is close to Hevingham, within easy reach of both the Norfolk Broads and the lovely north Norfolk coastline, famous for its shingle and sandy beaches, for seal-watching and for its delightful coastal and inland villages.

The park is ideally placed to explore the laid-back resort of Cromer; Holt, famous for its bookshops and art galleries; and the royal retreat of Sandringham Estate.

Cobbleacre Park has five fishing lakes, all named after the grandchildren of the founder of the park, Trevor Seales. The original lake was created by chance, when Trevor, a cattle farmer, was working to drain a waterlogged meadow.
As he dug, the drainage area filled with water – forming a lake. He developed the park, to offer, alongside fishing, holiday homes for purchase and for hire, and also an area for touring caravans.

The five lakes are named Mario, Alex, Adam, Amy and Gianna. Mario's Lake is the original lake that Trevor created by chance. It's a 3.5-acre lake, up to 4m deep, and is the park's specimen lake because of the size and types of fish there, including carp, catfish and tench.

Gianna's Lake measures an acre and a half, with depth of up to 3m. Fish available are carp, tench, perch, ide, roach and skimmers. Amy's Lake is the park's match lake. It's oval-shaped and has 34 pegs. Smaller fish are in this lake, including silvers, rudd and perch. Alex's Lake is ideal for beginners, smaller than the others. And Adam's Lake, the park's most popular lake, is ideal for carp anglers. It covers around three acres.

HOLIDAY HOMES AND PLOTS AVAILABLE

Two lakeside plots are available, both with their own fishing swims. Buyers can choose from homes made by Willerby, ABI and Europa. And two pre-owned holiday homes are for sale. There is a 2015, three-bedroom Willerby Vacation, 35ft by 12ft, with two L-shaped seating areas, at £29,000, and a two-bedroom Willerby Aurora, also 2015, and also 35ft by 12ft, at £25,000. The prices include this year's pitch fee.

Images: Cobbleacre Park

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A CORNISH RETREAT

Holiday homes close to two stunning villages on the south coast

Words **Val Chapman** Photography **John Chapman**

Oaklands Park sits in an elevated position with a countryside vista in all directions – and it's close to the coast of south Cornwall. The park is equidistant between the ancient, quaint coastal village of Polperro, and the fishing port of Looe (pictured above). Both are just a few minutes' drive from the park – or you can walk to Looe in about 20 minutes; a footpath leads from the park.

The park, which has a large dog walking area and a playground, is situated amid a maze of lanes and some pretty villages that are far from anything tourism related. This is a real retreat; a haven of tranquillity, and is characterised by mature bushes of contrasting foliage colours.

Polperro is arguably among Cornwall's most famous gems. Whitewashed cottages, built at varying angles, jostle for space in the valley that leads to the harbour and the small beach. The village is almost traffic-free; you leave your car in the car park by the entrance to the village. There are plenty of eateries from which to choose anything ranging from specialty ice creams to main meals.

Looe is a time-stood-still town packed with fascinating buildings on its main street that leads to a lovely, sandy beach.

Fishing is very much ingrained into the town's character, and the fish shop by the quay is strongly to be recommended for its spectacular variety of fish, including crabs and often lobsters. This is a great place to stock the fridge of your holiday home at Oaklands Park.

Holiday homes for sale include a Victory Baywood at £59,995, a Carnaby Highgrove at £67,995, an Atlas Sahara at £77,995, and an Atlas Sherwood Lodge at £93,995.

Oaklands Park

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PREMIER PARK 2023

Image: Hurley Riverside

Words **Val Chapman**

YOUR PLACE BESIDE THE THAMES

Fishing, paddleboarding and more; this holiday home park offers a host of activities

Just an hour from London, in the village of Hurley, which lies between Henley-on-Thames and Marlow, sits Hurley Riverside Park.

It's a tranquil location, on the bank of the Thames. Waterborne activities are an obvious attraction – you can hire paddleboards and canoes – and there are nature trails through the park's woodland. Outdoor table tennis and a trim trail are on offer, too – and alongside the river is a perfect place for picnics. Fishing, too, is an attraction; holiday home owners can join the park's fishing club, which has sole use of Hurley Riverside's private fishing lake,

For boat owners this park is ideal, with two slipways; one for boats on trailers and another for inflatable boats. Moorings are available.

There's so much to do on the park that you may not want to leave it. But if you do, the park is surrounded by walks and is within easy distance of a host of delightful places. Among them are Marlow, four miles from the park; Windsor, 12 miles away, and Henley-on-Thames, just five miles from the park.

Among new holiday homes for sale at Hurley Riverside is an Atlas Sahara at £85,800, a Pemberton Avon at £66,250, and a Pemberton Regent at £68,950. Pre-owned homes are available, at prices starting from £8,500.

The park is open from 1 March until 31 October.

Images: Pemberton

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